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21 July Middle East and South Asia Review

LD211355 [Editorial Report]

Iran-Iraq War

The Foreign Ministry responded to UN Security Council Resolution No 598 in a statement reported by Tehran radio, stressing that Iran's "principled position" will not be changed by the "unjust resolution," which "will not have the slightest effect in inhibiting or reducing the scale of the imposed war." The resolution ignores Iraq's role in starting the war, the statement contended, and it lacks internal coherence because of the "clear contradiction" between some ot its binding articles. The Ministry also maintained that the dispatch of U.S. warships to the Gulf has violated the UN resolution's request that other powers not interfere in the conflict. On the U.S. naval presence in the Gulf, Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i said in a speech broadcast by the radio that Iran "will not interfere" with the U.S. ships as long as Iran's own oil tankers are not attacked. However, if Iranian ships are "hit by missiles and bullets," Iran "will not care" under which country's flag oil is being carried and "even if it is the U.S. flag, we will hit it, time and again."

For Iraq's part, the Iraqi permanent UN representative praised Security Council concern over the war in a speech cited by INA. He also affirmed that his government will "carefully and earnestly study" Resolution No 598 and "define" its position "at an appropriate time." An Iraqi spokesman subsequently disclosed that President Saddam Husayn has decided to call an extraordinary National Assembly session to discuss the UN resolution, according to INA.

Regarding action on the battlefronts, a communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio announced that the VI Army Corps successfully countered a 19 July attack on its forward positions and "annihilated" most of an Iranian infantry regiment. The Iraqi announcement followed Iranian claims of a successful attack in the Majnun Islands area. According to IRNA, the Iranians killed 500 Iraqi soldiers, advanced 2 km, and repulsed a counterattack by the VI Corps. In response to Iraqi denials of guerrilla "victories" in the "Fath-8" operations, an Iranian military commander called on foreign reporters in Iraq to inspect the results on the assault on the Iraqi town of Atrush, IRNA also reported.

In the Gulf, an Iranian naval patrol arrested the crews of three Kuwaiti "spy boats," Tehran radio announced.

Iran

French Embassy Siege — Iran will "reciprocate with a positive reaction" if France lifts its siege of the Iranian Embassy in Paris, but the Iranians will not submit to "pressure and blackmail" and will "exchange blow for blow," Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati told the Belgian, Danish, and FRG ambassadors in remarks reported by Tehran radio. In Paris, a French minister stressed in an interview cited by AFP that "there is no way" France can agree to make a "barter deal" by swapping Iranian interpreter Vahid Gorji for French consul Paul Torri. In another development, Paris radio noted an official announcement that two French tankers entering the Gulf will be escorted by naval vessels. France has advised other French ships not to sail in the Gulf, according to the radio. Meanwhile, Karachi radio confirmed that Pakistan has agreed to handle Iranian interests in France.

Statement on Bombing — The Iranian Embassy in London condemned the 18 July car bomb attack on a former minister in the shah's regime as a "terrorist act" which it attributed to factional fighting between rival groups opposed to the Islamic Republic, IRNA reported.

Al-Shariqah

WAKH carried the text of decrees by Al-Shariqah ruler Shaykh Sultan ibn Muhammad al-Qasimi announcing the establishment of a 21-member Executive Council to assist him in running the amirate's public affairs. The Council's tasks will include drawing up general policy, submitting legislation to the ruler for ratification, and discussing the draft annual budget. The new body will consist of local officials and individuals nominated by Shaykh Sultan, who will chair its biweekly meetings. The Council includes deputy ruler Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz and 10 other members of the Al-Qasimi family.

Syria

Talas in USSR — Defense Minister Mustafa Talas arrived in Moscow at the head of a delegation which will attend ceremonies in Baikonur marking the launch of the joint Soviet-Syrian space mission, SANA reported. Major General Muhammad al-Khuli was one of the delegation members listed by the agency. The reference to Al-Khuli follows a 14 July clandestine Radio Free Lebanon report that Al-Khuli was dismissed from his post as chief of Air Force intelligence because his name had been connected with the Hindawi affair.

Comment on U.S. Relations — Commenting on U.S. envoy Vernon Walters' recent talks with President Hafiz al-Asad, Damascus radio stressed that Syria had no objection to listening to what Walters had to say and to letting him hear Syria's views. Such an exchange of views does not mean that existing differences were eliminated, the radio said, but the fact that the United States had "returned to initiate a dialogue" was in itself "positive." If there is a desire to normalize relations it is necessary for the side that "created these unnatural things" to take the initiative and remove them, the radio added.

Israeli-Egyptian Talks

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir informed visiting Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid that he does not support an international peace conference but that he is willing to hold talks with Jordan and non-PLO Palestinian leaders within the framework of a "regional" conference, Jerusalem radio reported. 'Abd al-Majid said an international conference would strengthen ties between Israel and Egypt, and he gave Shamir a long message from the Egyptian president. The Egyptian minister also held talks with his Israeli counterpart Shim'on Peres, who told the radio afterward that he is "very happy" with the "practical, down-to-earth tone" of the talks. While confirming that the

two sides still disagree over the issue of Palestinian representation in peace talks, Peres said Egypt agrees with Israel "that the PLO as it is cannot come."

Lebanon

Voice of Lebanon radio reported renewed clashes between Amal Movement and Palestinian gunmen in the Sidon area during recent days, noting that the exchanges of fire became more violent 21 July. The radio also announced that a Syrian soldier was killed and three others were wounded when gunmen attacked their position in Tripoli 20 July.

Libya

Following the recent Egyptian report that a Libyan helicopter crew sought asylum in Egypt, JANA claimed that the Egyptian authorities "hijacked" the aircraft "amidst a host of lies to cover it up." The agency asserted that the helicopter was forced to land in Egypt by Egyptian fighter planes after losing its way because of an instrument malfunction.

Afghanistan

At a 21 July press conference in Moscow, PDPA General Secretary Najibullah "spoke highly" of his talks with CPSU General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev, TASS reported. According to the agency, the two leaders discussed "additional steps and measures" toward a "speedier normalization" of the Afghan situation. Najibullah expressed gratitude for the USSR's "firm support" of the national reconciliation policy. "Hostilities" have not yet subsided, he noted, stressing that those mainly responsible are "mercenaries" who enter Afghanistan from Pakistan and who receive military aid from Western countries, especially the United States and Britain.

Arabs Step Up Pressure on Iran To Halt War

PM171055 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 14 Jul 87 pp 1, 11

['Abd al-Nabi 'Abd al-Sattar report: "Intensified Diplomatic Contacts To End Gulf War This Year"]

[Text] Arab diplomatic sources in Cairo have revealed that in coming weeks Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi will play a mediatory role between Iraq and Iran. Al-Mahdi discussed this mediation during his recent visit to the region, when he met with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and leaders of some Gulf states. Diplomatic sources expect tangible results from this mediation, which will ease the severity of the current conflict between the two countries. This is especially true since Al-Mahdi maintains cordial ties with Iranian authorities after his visit to Tehran last year.

The same sources have confirmed that Syria currently seeks to persuade Iran's leaders to stop the conflict for a period of time to arrange for reconciliatory negotiations to be held with Iraqi officials. President Hafiz al-Asad has this week dispatched Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' to Iran to hold consultations with Iranian authorities on this matter. King Husayn, the Jordanian monarch, recently tried to exploit the Syrian-Iraqi rapprochement that resulted from the secret meeting between Saddam Husayn and Hafiz al-Asad in Jordan on 27 April on ending the Gulf war. Diplomatic sources in Cairo have also revealed that the United States is currently exerting pressure on Syria to persuade it to suspend its military aid to Iran and contain Iran's role in the region; in return the United States would boost Syria's role in the international arena and improve relations with Damascus. General Vernon Walters, U.S. representative to the United Nations, who is responsible for special missions, paid a visit to Damascus and delivered a message from U.S. President Ronald Reagan to President Hafiz al-Asad. *Al-Wafd* has learned that Syria is currently being subjected to Arab economic pressures by Saudi Arabia and the GCC states, which aim at forcing it to play a mediatory role between Iran and Iraq and suspend its aid to Iran. Libyan President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has recently suspended his military aid to Iran due to his involvement in Chad and Libya's worsening economic crisis. The great powers, primarily China, have also halted arms shipments to Iran. The sources also confirmed that Tehran has recently displayed noticeable flexibility regarding its rigid position on peace initiatives, especially during talks held with UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar in Tehran. The sources added that Egypt's official declaration — that it would intervene militarily in the Gulf war should Kuwait's security be threatened by any Iranian action — has in fact prompted the Iranian authorities to carefully reconsider their position.

Algeria To Mediate End of Libya-Chad Dispute

PM211039 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 14 Jul 87 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Algerian Mediation Between Libya and France on Terms of Withdrawal of Foreign Forces From Chad"]

[Text] Diplomatic sources in Cairo have confirmed that Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid is presently assuming the role of mediator between Libya and France to end the continuing conflict between them in Chad. A meeting is expected to be held between the parties concerned with the problem within the framework of the OAU, during the African summit conference scheduled to begin 27 July in Addis Ababa. During the meeting, discussions will cover national reconciliation between the Chadians and the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Chad, to pave the way for the formation of a government of national unity. Moreover, the same diplomatic sources confirmed that the Algerian president discussed these proposals with the Libyan leader, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, during his recent visit to Algeria. Al-Qadhdhafi had announced his readiness for reconciliation with Chad, on condition that French forces stationed in Chad are expelled. Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, the Algerian foreign minister, is expected to undertake a shuttle trip between Paris and Tripoli.

Chadian Charge Discusses Tripartite Summit

JN181940 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I in Arabic 16 Jul 87 p 8

[Text] Khartoum — 'Abbas Ya'qub Kuti, Chadian charge d'affaires in Khartoum, told *Al-Ittihad* that the Libyan-Chadian-Sudanese tripartite summit in Khartoum to resolve the Libyan-Chadian dispute has stumbled because Libya refuses to participate.

In another development, responsible French sources in Khartoum told *Al-Ittihad* of their dissatisfaction with the Chadian-U.S. rapprochement. They said that President Habre's recent visit to the United States will pave the way for increased U.S. support for Chad. This in turn may prompt the USSR to intervene in the Chadian issue on behalf of Libya. These sources denied French intervention in the Chadian war. They explained that France supplies Chad with arms which it believes the Chadians can use effeciently.

Mubarak on Libyan Relations, Return of Plane
NC211126 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1030 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Text] Cairo, 21 Jul (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak has asserted that Egypt harbors no evil intentions toward the Libyan people, noting that all Egypt wants from Libya is "good-neighborliness."

In this regard, President Mubarak has asserted that Egypt highly values the Libyan people and denied that there is a dispute between Libyans and Egyptians. He added that Egypt bears no grudge against Libya's president [title as received], who, according to the Mubarak, creates problems between the two countries.

Mubarak made these remarks in response to reporters' questions after participating in a graduation ceremony for Egyptian officers at the War Academy today. The president answered questions about the possible return of a Libyan aircraft and about remarks made earlier by Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, to the effect that Libya had not honored a promise to return Egyptian citizens held in that country.

The president said: We gave them one of two planes. We returned the plane as a show of good intentions.

President Mubarak reiterated that Egypt harbors no evil intentions toward Libya. He asserted: We will not and cannot lay an evil hand on the Libyans. We cannot deal with them violently. On the contrary, we pity them. We want them to live in peace and to lead dignified lives.

The president continued: If the Libyan president declines to return our Egyptian citizens, we have proved our good intentions without saying a word. We returned their plane as a demonstration of these good intentions. They took the plane back and now they inform us secretly that they will send us the two Egyptians they are holding; they do not even know the number they have.

The president indicated that these contacts are being conducted through the Egyptian opposition, asserting that this opposition is comprised of Egyptian citizens.

The president declared: I cannot compare the Egyptian opposition with the Libyan one. The Egyptian opposition is part of the system, while the Libyan opposition works against the Libyan regime.

Questioned about the Iranian leaders' intention to escalate the Gulf war despite the resolution adopted by the UN Security Council last night endorsing a cease-fire and withdrawal to international borders, the president replied: I do not want to accuse anyone. The resolution was adopted last evening. Let us wait and see what they do.

The president added: Anyway, we, as Arabs, are to blame in this. We should not lay our burdens on Iran. We should blame ourselves because we cannot agree. When we agree we will be a force capable of confronting Iran or any other power. Only then will they reckon with us. The fault lies with us, not Iran.

The president then answered another question about the remarks made by the Kuwaiti heir apparent in a news conference yesterday, praising Egypt's stand in the Arab arena. The president said: We have stood and always will stand by our brother Arabs.

Foreign Minister Discusses U.S., USSR Relations
JN201900 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 19 JUL 87 p 14

[Interview with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, by 'Ala' al-Din Mustafa in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] *Al-Yawm*: Egyptian diplomacy is actively involved in relations with the USSR. Egyptian opposition papers report that an important shift has occurred in relations with the USSR. They also refer to the satisfactory settlement of Egypt's delinquent debts and to the economic cooperation between the two countries. What do you have to say about this?

'Abd al-Majid: Egyptian foreign policy is characterized by constancy. We are a nonaligned Islamic country which extends its hand in friendship to all countries, regardless of their social systems, on condition that any international dealing be based on mutual respect, noninterference in domestic affairs, and the attainment of peoples' legitimate interests. From this premise you can define Egypt's policy with each of the two superpowers.

With respect to the USSR, one can say that Moscow now understands our circumstances, particularly the debt issue. We apprpeciate this USSR stand.

Al-Yawm: Press reports say that President Husni Mubarak intends to visit the USSR in August. How true are these reports? Does President Mubarak intend to visit Moscow in the near future?

'Abd al-Majid: I have no knowledge of this. You can go back to those who have published these reports. As for President Mubrak's tours abroad, last week he paid a short visit to the SFRY, a country which is a member of the Nonaligned Movement and which supports our pan-Arab causes. President Mubarak's talks there dealt with bilateral relations and how to promote them in various spheres. His talks also dealt with the Middle East problem, the Palestinian issue, and various nonaligned matters. From there he left for Geneva where he attended the opening session of the seventh UNCTAD conference, met with several world leaders, and discussed the possibility of convening an international conference to settle the Palestinian problem. He also delivered an important speech on Third World problems and on debts and how to settle them. The meetings he held there achieved tangible results with respect to bilateral relations and the Middle East problem.

President Mubarak will also attend the Addis Ababa OAU summit late this August. [as published]

Al-Yawm: What about Egypt's relations with the United States at this stage and the military debts and their interest rates?

'Abd al-Majid: Our relations with the United States are excellent, and it is not true that the United States has suspended financial assistance to Egypt. What is true is that Washington has shown an understanding of the circumstances through which the Egyptian economy is now passing and has thankfully helped us in our efforts to reach an agreement with the IMF on rescheduling our debts. Consultations are also under way with respect to our military debts to Washington and the interest rates which have accrued on them. [passage omitted]

Soviet Official Arrives in Cairo for Talks

NC200524 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2245 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Text] Cairo, 20 Jul (MENA) — Assistant Soviet Foreign Minister [title as received] Mikhail Systenko arrived in Cairo tonight for a 3-day visit to Egypt during which he will meet with Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary of the Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs; Ambassador 'Amr Musa, director of the International Organizations Department at the Foreign Ministry; and senior Egyptian Foreign Ministry officials.

Upon his arrival, Systenko stated that his consultations with Egyptian officials have been scheduled to coincide with the approach of the September convocation of the UN General Assembly. He said that while he is in Cairo, he will discuss bilateral relations and issues of concern to both Egypt and the Soviet Union. He will also exchange views on the Middle East question and regional problems.

The Soviet official was met at the airport by Ambassador 'Amr Musa and Soviet Embassy staff in Cairo.

Interview With Ghali on Upcoming OAU Summit

PM171335 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 17 Jul 87 pp 27, 28

[Interview with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali by Usamah 'Ajjaj in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts][Passage omitted] *Al-Hawadith*: It has been noticed that the Egyptian Foreign Ministry has made early preparations for the African summit. What issues are expected to be on the summit's agenda and what is Egypt's opinion of the agenda proposed?

Ghali: As is well known, any African summit is preceded by a ministerial conference to prepare for the summit and to lay down its agenda. [passage omitted] The problems of southern Africa are expected to be high on the agenda of both the ministerial conference and the summit; namely, apartheid, Namibia's independence, and the racist regime's policy of undermining stability in the neighboring Frontline states through constant acts of aggression and terrorism, as well as its support for armed guerrillas to overthrow legitimate governments in the region. It is a fact that it is the racist regime which is responsible for the explosive situation in the region and that it is no longer just a threat to international peace and security, but indeed a conspicuous danger. Therefore, fighting against the racist regime has become a fundamental conviction as far as all OAU member states are concerned, since the dignity of Africans is being threatened.

Among the political issues will be the Middle East problem and the Palestinian question, which are to be discussed in view of the [OAU] secretary general's report on the issue. This report will deal with the situation in the occupied territories, since the Israeli administration still pursues its repressive and aggressive policy, in addition to the fact that terrorist schemes, repressive measures, detentions, unfair rulings, mass revenge operations through administrative decisions, destruction of homes, and expulsion of people stir up feelings of spite and hatred. However, such acts cannot affect the Palestinians' morale more than they have at any time since their struggle to restore their rights was launched. It is obvious that the OAU will discuss these acts and adopt appropriate resolutions to condemn them. Discussion of the Middle East issue is expected to deal with the Iraq-Iran war as well. In fact, since the beginning of the conflict the OAU has not been content with just expressing concern over its escalation, but has indeed sent messages more than once to officials in both countries calling on them to show moderation. The OAU will continue to add its voice to those whose intentions are good and who are striving to find a solution to this problem which is wiping out lives, destroying the economy of both countries, and threatening peace.

Al-Hawadith: The deteriorating economic situation in Africa raises important questions about the problem of debts, especially now that Zambia's membership in the IMF has been frozen and the Ivory Coast has defaulted on debt installments. Will the economic situation be raised at the ministerial meeting or the summit?

Ghali: Certainly economic issues and the economic situation constitute an important part of the ministerial conference's agenda, especially now that the UN General Assembly has held a special session to discuss such issues. It is known that OAU members are showing commitment to a program of priorities in order to revive the African economy by bringing in necessary structural reforms. It concerns me here to indicate that when Africa shoulders its share of responsibility in implementing the program, the international community's response is not at all encouraging. This is with the knowledge that most African states have accepted the terms set by the IMF and the World Bank, but exaggeration of these terms may badly harm the economies of the African states, and Africa's efforts may be wasted, since the creditors' demands are exaggerated. [Passage omitted]

Al-Hawadith: What has Egypt's mediation role between Ethiopia and Sudan achieved so far in view of the escalation of operations by Garang's forces and the Ethiopian artillery backing Garang's offensives?

Ghali: During all contacts between Egypt and Ethiopia, Egypt has expressed readiness to mediate between Sudan and Ethiopia, since Egypt realizes the need for stability along joint Sudanese-Ethiopian borders. These borders extend over approximately

2,000 km where tribes intermingle and their interests are interrelated. In fact Egypt believes that it has been entrusted with a mission; namely, to strengthen relations with Ethiopia so that they can help Egypt play an important role in finding a solution to the conflict between Sudan and Ethiopia. Egypt will remain, in the future, ready to play any mediation role should Sudan and Ethiopia ask it to do so.

Al-Hawadith: What truth is there in reports that Ethiopia has asked Cairo to close down the offices of the Eritrean liberation fronts in the Egyptian capital, and how would you assess relations between Egypt and Ethiopia?

Ghali: Egypt does not recognize any political or military movements in Eritrea and therefore there are no offices in the Egyptian capital for any Eritrean liberation fronts. In Egypt there are only a number of Ethiopian students of Eritrean origin who have some clubs and associations through which they exercise purely social activities. Egypt will not allow such clubs to perform any political activities; this is the rule governing clubs and associations of foreign students in Egypt.

As for the Egyptian-Ethiopian relationship, Egyptian diplomacy over the past years sought to end the freeze that had characterized relations between the two countries. This was achieved through President Mubarak's meetings with President Mengistu Haile Mariam on the sidelines of the 21st and 22d OAU summits in Addis Ababa in 1985 and 1986 successively. [passage omitted]

Al-Hawadith: What is Egypt's true position toward the current war in Chad in light of reports of an intensified Egyptian role in making [Chadian President] Hissein Habre's recent visit to Washington a success, to the extent that a special plane was provided to fly him to Washington, and what about your visit to Chad?

Ghali: Certainly President Hissein Habre's recent success in uniting the Chadian factions under the legitimate government in Chad has helped to reveal the facts behind the Chadian problem; namely, that it is a conflict between Libya and Chad and not infighting among armed Chadian factions. Egypt believes in the need for stability to prevail throughout Africa so that the African states can shoulder their responsibilities regarding development and finding a solution to economic problems in the interest of all peoples. The objective of my visit to Chad was to hold the second session of the joint Egyptian-Chadian Ministerial Committee, which laid down a practical framework to enhance cultural, technical, trade, and economic cooperation, as in the case of the strong political relations already maintained between the two countries.

Al-Hawadith: In light of Israeli successes; namely, Shamir's visits to certain African states and the restoration of relations between some states and Tel Aviv — does this not constitute a setback for Egyptian diplomacy, which was behind the African states' position in support of Arab rights, although there were relations between Cairo and Tel Aviv?

Ghali: This question is misleading, since Egyptian diplomacy used to adopt the approach of confrontation and war toward Israel at one stage of the Arab-Israeli conflict; therefore it was obvious for Egypt to work toward gaining the support and backing of the African brothers for Arab rights and the Palestinian cause, in whose justice the African peoples believe. However, since Egypt began to pursue the peace policy as a means of finding a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict, it has continued at the same time to work toward gaining the support and backing of the fraternal African states for the Palestinian people's rights to self-determination and to live in peace on their national soil, rights supported by the African peoples at all times and on all occasions. As for the restoration of diplomatic relations with Israel by some African states, this is an issue Egypt will not interfere with, since this is a matter of the sovereignty of the African states. Besides, the restoration of relations between an African state and Israel does not mean that this African state has denied or abandoned its support for the Palestinian people and their struggle to restore their national rights, foremost among which is the right to self-determination. [passage omitted]

All Defendants in Attempt on Abu Basha Detained

NC201552 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1455 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Text] Ismailia, 20 Jul (MENA) — Interior Minister Zaki Badr has declared that all defendants in the assassination attempt against Major General Hasan Abu Basha, former interior minister and former minister of local government, have been apprehended. He said that they are undergoing questioning with the knowledge of the Chief Prosecutor's Office, which, for security reasons, ordered that the interrogation process not be made public.

During a meeting with police chiefs in the Ismailia Governorate today, Badr asserted that terrorism is an international phenomenon sweeping the entire world. However, he added that the incidents which had taken place in Egypt are "limited and do not constitute a serious phenomenon." He noted that several parties have targeted Egypt and its internal security, stating that the duty of the police and the people is to confront and frustrate their attempts. He affirmed that the number of people detained in the wake of recent incidents did not exceed 500, and added that they are being interrogated and then released if proved innocent.

Afro-Asian Solidarity Chairman Returns From USSR

NC200535 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2307 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Text] Cairo, 20 Jul (MENA) — Ahmad Hamrush, chairman of the Egyptian Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee, returned to Cairo from Moscow tonight after a 1-week visit to the Soviet Union at the invitation of the Soviet Solidarity Committee.

Hamrush said on his return that the Egyptian delegation had met with senior Soviet officials and held discussions revolving around the situation in the Middle East. He added that the two sides had agreed on the need to convene the international conference for peace on a sound basis in order to guarantee its success, as well as the importance of the PLO's representation at the conference on the basis that it is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Egypt Accused of Hijacking Military Helicopter

LD210834 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0720 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Text] Egyptian capital, 21 Jul, JANA — The Egyptian regime's defense minister, 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, has admitted that the Egyptian authorities have hijacked a Libyan helicopter from near the border region.

Two Egyptian fighters aircraft forced the Libyan helicopter to land in Egyptian territory. This was while the helicopter sought to find its way by identifying landmarks after having become lost due to a malfunction in its instruments.

While the Egyptian authorities have hijacked the helicopter amidst a host of lies seeking to cover up this act, the Government of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah defies the Egyptian Government to allow a neutral commission to meet with the aircraft crews that were forced to land in Egyptian territory.

Opposition Claims Al-Qadhdhafi Arming Tribes

NC202006 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1930 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Text] Alexandria, 20 Jul (MENA) — A knowledgeable source in the National Front for the Liberation of Libya has stated that the Front's sources in Libya learned that Al-Qadhdhafi recently distributed large quantities of "ammunition and Kalashnikovs" to a number of tribal homes that he believes are loyal to him. The source stated that some of these tribes are the Warfalah, Awlad Sulayman, Al-Mawajir, and Al-Qadhadhifah. Excluded from this list is the home of Colonel Hasan Ishkal, who comes from the Al-Qadhadhifah tribe and was assassinated under Al-Qadhdhafi's personal orders in November 1985. It is worth noting that most of these tribes live around the city of Surt, Al-Qadhdhafi's birthplace, and in southern Libya.

DPRK Trade Minister, Delegation Begin Visit

Tour Al-Qadhdhafi's House

LD201214 Tripoli JANA in English 1030 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Text] Tripoli, Nasir [July] 20, *Jamahiriyah News Agency* — The North Korean minister of external economic affairs, Mr. Chong Song-nam, and his accompanying delegation visited yesterday the house of the leader of the revolution witnessing the effects of the abortive and barbarous U.S.-NATO aggression.

Mr. [Chong Song-]nam has condemned this aggression stressing the comments written by him in the guest-book that U.S. imperialism is the principal cause for international warfare and aggression adding that the Libyan Arab people will positively triumph over U.S. imperialist terrorism.

He continues that U.S. imperialism is the enemy of both the Libyan Arab and Korean peoples.

He stresses that his people stands alongside the people of Great Jamahiriyah and condemns the aggressive and terrorist acts of U.S. imperialism launched against the forces of emancipation and progress worldwide.

Cooperation Talks Begin

LD201247 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1140 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Text] Tripoli, 20 Jul (JANA) — The joint Libyan Arab-Korean committee began its fourth round of talks in Tripoli this morning.

The meeting was attended by the secretary of the General People's Committee for Communications and Maritime Transport and, on the DPRK side by Chong Song-nam, minister of external economic affairs.

At the start of the session, the two sides stressed their eagerness to develop and promote cooperation between the two friendly countries in the technical, economic, and commercial fields.

DFLP's Hawatimah Praises Effort for Palestineans

LD210250 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1855 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Text] Tripoli, 20 Jul (JANA) — DFLP Secretary General Brother Nayif Hawatimah appraised highly the efforts exerted and being exerted by the brother leader of the revolution toward the Palestinian Arab cause, the reunification of the Palestinian revolution's factions, and the unity of the PLO.

In a statement to a JANA correspondent immediately prior to departing Tripoli this evening, he praised the unionist efforts by the Great al-Fatih Revolution. He also expressed the hope that the Arab nation's unity will be achieved, its pan-Arab status consolidated, and that the Arabs will be victorious over all Zionist imperialist conspiracies and schemes.

King Hassan Returns, Cables Thanks to UK

LD201329 Rabat MAP in English 1205 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Text] Rabat, July 20 (MAP) — King Hassan II flew back home Saturday [18 July] evening coming from the United Kingdom where the sovereign was on a four day state visit at the invitation of Queen Elizabeth II.

Before leaving London, the sovereign sent Queen Elizabeth a cable of thanks for the warm welcome he was met with.

The cable also indicated that the "useful" talks held with members of the British Cabinet will "undoubtedly contribute to enhance further relations between our two peoples and enlarge the scope of their cooperation".

"...We are sure that the efforts we are exerting to find solutions to the delicate problems the world is facing will reach their goals", the royal cable said.

Four Muslim Fundamentalists Reported Arrested

LD182141 Paris International Service in French 2030 GMT 18 Jul 87

[Text] Several Muslim fundamentalists in Morocco have been arrested. The Moroccan police arrested four Islamic fundamentalists suspected of making an appeal for revolution this week during the absence of King Hassan II, who was in London. These persons were arrested following the publication of a pamphlet on religious practices that includes the word "jihad," which can be interpreted as meaning holy war against the infidels.

Socialist Party Ends Congress, Issues Statement

LD210319 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1550 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Text] Casablanca, 20 Jul (MAP) — The Party of Progress and Socialism's (Communist) fourth national congress ended its 3-day proceedings in Casablanca yesterday evening, Sunday [19 July]. At the closing session, 1,300 delegates and a number of delegations of foreign and national parties were in attendance.

During its final session, the congress reelected Mr Ali Yata as the party's secretary general. It also elected the 71-member Central Committee and the 13-member Political Bureau.

During this session, the congress ratified the Central Committee's resolution, the secretary general's report, the Mandate Commission's report, the political committee's report, the congress' general statement, a petition concerning the "political prisoners," a petition concerning the commemoration of the "October Revolution," and a petition on modifications to the party statutes.

In its general statement, the Party of Progress and Socialism's fourth national congress stressed the Moroccan nature of the Sahara. It called on Algeria's leaders — Algeria being the main party in the conflict — to put an end to obstruction of the UN secretary general's endeavors and to facilitate the convening of a referendum on the Sahara.

As for the status of Ceuta and Mellila, towns which have been colonized by Spain, the congress called for these regions' decolonization through negotiations between Morocco and Spain.

The statement addressed Morocco's domestic situation and pointed out that the solution to the "crisis facing the country resides in nationalizing the vital economic utilities, the basic reform of agricultural structures, the nation's fundamental industrialization, the varying of foreign trade resources, reformation of fiscal and tax policy, the reformation and democratization of education, the meeting of workers' requests, caring for emigrants, combating inflation, installing an escalating system of prices and salaries, reducing the voting age to 18 years and the eligibility age to 21 years, instituting complete democratization, freeing political prisoners, and facilitating the return of emigrants to the nation."

The general statement expressed the congress's support for the Palestinian revolution, as well as the Lebanese, South African, Namibian, Sandinist Nicaraguan, and Chilean peoples. It also expressed its support for convening an international Middle East peace conference with the participation of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

As for the Iran-Iraq war, the general statement expressed the conferees' regret at its continuation and supported current efforts to end it.

Following the closing session, Mr Ali Yata presented a summary of the congress proceedings and the party's future prospects.

The following is a list of the Party of Progress and Socialism's Political Bureau:

Ali Yata, Abdallah Layachi, Abdeslem Bourquia, Omar Fassi, Mohamed Chouaib Riffi, Ismail Alaoui, Abdelouahed Souhail, Touhami Khyari, Hadj Benbella, Abdelmajid Douib, Simon Levy, Mohamed Moucharik, and Amina Lemrini.

It is worth pointing out that the Party of Progress and Socialism's fourth national congress began its proceedings on Friday afternoon [17 July] under the slogan "With the people for the victory of the nationalist cause, democratic change, and social progress."

Libya Reportedly Asks for Halt to Chad Mediation

JN201057 Khartoum SUNA in English
1010 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Text] Khartoum, July 20 (SUNA) — Libya has called on Sudan to halt its mediation between Chad and Libya for reaching a peaceful settlement to the Chadian conflict, an official source at the Foreign Ministry told the daily *Al-Siyasah* published here today.

The paper quoted the official source as saying that the Libyan request came due to the recent visit by the Chadian President Hissein Habre to the USA but the source did not indicate that Sudan will respond to the request or not.

Sudan mediation between Chad and Libya began before four months and Sudanese officials visited Libya, Chad and Algeria several times for this purpose.

Prime Minister Holds Zagreb News Conference

JN171710 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1420 GMT 17 Jul 87

[Text] Zagreb, 17 Jul (SUNA) — Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has stated that the basic issues discussed with SFRY officials during his official 3-day visit to the SFRY included bilateral relations in the economic, trade, industrial, and military fields, the Nonaligned Movement, the debt crisis, and a new international economic order. His visit ended yesterday.

This was stated during a news conference he recently held in Zagreb. At this time the prime minister declared that Sudan attaches great importance to its relations with the SFRY. These relations had deteriorated during Al-Numayri's dictatorship. The prime minister also called for concerted efforts to help bring about peace and ease hotbeds of tension. He also commented that his talks with SFRY officials had covered the Middle East conflict, the Iraq-Iran war, the situation in South Africa and Namibia, and the situation in Afghanistan and the Horn of Africa, since these conflicts endanger world peace. Al-Mahdi pointed out that a trade protocol for exchanging products and commodities was signed between Sudan and the SFRY. He added that the two sides agreed to activate bilateral trade and reach an understanding on how to repay Sudan's debts to the SFRY. These debts accumulated during Al-Numayri's era.

Commenting on reports published by some European newspapers that Sudan is on the brink of an economic breakdown, Al-Mahdi expressed amazement about such stories, especially at this time. He added that these newspapers remained silent while Sudan suffered under the yoke of despotic dictatorship. Al-Mahdi then explained that economic growth at that time was -6 percent. He continued: We have brought about a sort of boom which enabled us to achieve an economic growth rate of 7.5 percent, while the figure for agricultural production reached 12.5 percent. The prime minister also detailed that Sudan supplied other nations with 30,000 tons of food aid this year.

Al-Mahdi spoke on the motives of these press reports and stated: Some of these reports are prompted by noble and humane motives that seek to cause other nations to grant further aid to Sudan. He added that relief services, especially those operating through nongovernmental institutions, have become a profitable business. The prime minister indicated that some people have an interest in continuing relief services. The prime minister declared that these interests could lie behind the bleak published reports, and explained that ambiguous motives, evil intentions, and incorrect information could also lie behind these reports.

As for Sudan's relationship with the IMF, Al-Mahdi commented that the fact no agreement was reached with the IMF has prompted some journalists partial to the IMF's plans to believe Sudan will suffer a disaster if no agreement with the IMF is reached. He added: These journalists use this issue to write carelessly about Sudan's deteriorating situation. The prime minister stated that dictator Al-Numayri concluded five agreements with the IMF but failed to observe their provisions fully. He added: Sudanese public opinion believes the economic deterioration that Sudan has experienced over the past 5 years is linked to IMF policies. The IMF therefore has a poor reputation in Sudan. The prime minister reiterated that talks with the IMF are continuing and that an agreement may be reached. He warned, however: There is no more room for implementing orders imposed by the IMF telling us to do this and not to do that. He added: Our negotiations with the IMF are based on our basic economic options.

The prime minister also spoke on the possibility of restoring the Nonaligned Movement's leading role. He warned: The Movement's penetration by some aligned states has weakened its credibility, and emphasized that the existence of a nonaligned group between the two large blocs reflects a fundamentally important principle, one whose advocation is required to preserve world peace, stability, and equilibrium. He added: We in Sudan have a dire and pressing need to be nonaligned in order to preserve our sovereignty and to contribute toward regional and international stability. The prime minister continued that the Nonaligned Movement, like all other movements, has problems which can be addressed and remedied. He declared: The first step to be taken on this matter should be the creation of more accurate criteria for true nonalignment to help expose aligned states. He added: Not joining major military alliances is not enough to make world states nonaligned. The prime minister reiterated his confidence in the Nonaligned Movement's ability to restore its leading role in world politics.

KUWAIT

Prime Minister Holds News Conference 20 Jul

LD202101 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1450 GMT 20 Jul 87

[News conference by Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister, with domestic and foreign correspondents from television, radio, press, and news agencies in Kuwait on 20 July; correspondents speak in vernacular with superimposed Arabic translation, except where otherwise specified; news conference monitored in progress — recorded]

[Text][Shaykh Sa'd] ...As newsmen, you have all been following the latest developments and the constant threats leveled at Kuwait. Commercial ships and oil tankers have been the target of a deliberate aggression. These ships, as you are well aware, were subjected to this aggression while they were in international waterways. It is common knowledge that Kuwait did not get involved in this current war. Our sole concern was to intensify the efforts and good offices being made to halt this bloodshed and to put an end to the war from which many have suffered, and are continuing to suffer, losses.

Then we realized that our Iranian neighbors were voicing daily threats and pledging to carry out attacks against Kuwaiti ships coming to or leaving from Kuwaiti ports. Many ships coming to or sailing from Kuwait were the target of such treacherous aggressions. The number of these ships is well over 50, and it is possible that 10 or 11 of them were Kuwaiti vessels. Due to our eagerness not to get involved in this war, however, we raised the issue before the UN Security Council, which adopted Resolution No 553 condemning these attacks and demanding that nothing should obstruct ships heading for Kuwait and the sister Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. This is what was said in the text of Resolution No 553. Despite the adoption of this resolution by an international body, the Iranian authorities continued to obstruct ships, shelling many of them.

As I have said, our desire to preserve our vital interests and to continue exporting Kuwaiti oil to international markets — for as you know, oil is our sole source of national income — made it necessary for us to get in touch with the five permanent members of the UN Security Council in order to charter oil tankers. We told officials in these states that the Kuwaiti request included either the leasing of oil tankers or the reregistration of tankers. Indeed, the Soviet Union responded and we leased three oil tankers from it. As for the United States, because of the absence of [word indistinct]oil tankers at that time, they agreed to register 11 tankers. We also have three British ships. Regarding the response from France and China, they are now studying the Kuwaiti request, and contacts are continuing to be undertaken with officials from these two countries.

At this meeting, I want now to state that we are ready to lease oil tankers from sister and friendly countries. When we took this step, we did not seek to create an atmosphere of tension, as some like to say; namely, that by following this step Kuwait has brought many warships into this sensitive region and that this measure, this policy, will complicate matters. This concept and this statement contradict truth and reality. These forces, or the warships of these countries, have been present in international waters for dozens of years. The U.S. ships have been present since 1940, and there are warships of the Soviet Union, Britain, and France. Naturally, the number of warships rises and falls in accordance with local and international developments. All that we wanted from leasing ships from these states, or from reregistering oil tankers with U.S. authorities, was to secure the arrival of Kuwaiti oil abroad.

We continue to act with a great sense of responsibility and to refrain from getting involved in this destructive war. The measure undertaken by the competent authorities in Kuwait to lease ships from these states is legitimate and recognized by all states and accords involving international rules and regulations. It is a commercial action. We do not seek to escalate the war or to create an atmosphere of confrontation between the superpowers in this region.

In light of the escalation and development of matters in this region, we have found it necessary to contact our brothers and friends in the last few days in order to consult, cooperate, and reach an understanding in the Arab and international arenas. All the responses from the fraternal and friendly leaders offered great support to Kuwait and to the Kuwaiti policy of always striving to secure stability and security in this region. The world knows that our brothers in Iraq have more than once expressed their complete readiness to halt the raging war and to begin a dialogue with Iranian authorities in order to secure noninterference in the internal affairs of each country.

Here I address a sincere appeal to the officials in neighboring Iran to respond, as fraternal Iraq has responded, to the international call for ending this war.

Ladies and gentlemen, as you know, for months the permanent members of the UN Security Council have been meeting, consulting, and investigating ways and means of ending this war. This draft resolution, together with its articles, was prepared for the remaining 10 members of the UN Security Council to coordinate and ratify its contents. The draft will be presented at noon today, after it has been ratified by the 15 members of the UN Security Council. Let us hope that the UN Security council will unanimously adopt such a firm resolution. Ladies and gentlemen, let me again welcome you all and thank you for listening. Now I will be happy to receive and answer your questions and queries.

[Zaqzuq] 'Abd al-Hamid Zaqzuq from Cairo radio. Your Highness, allow me in the name of Cairo radio to salute the brave Kuwaiti stand, which has shown the highest degree of self-control, because self-control often requires more courage than to make war. And let us hope that it will spare Kuwait any more suffering. However, we would like to ask — since Kuwait has asked to hire some countries' tankers or to allow the flags of these countries to fly on Kuwaiti tankers — how can such a request to China be compatible with the presence of Chinese missiles in the Strait of Hormuz? What would you think of the Arab countries that adopted a pro-Iran position in the war if they change their support for the sake of ending the war. If we blame foreign countries that help Iran and provide it with weapons for prolong-

ing the war, then what should be the position toward Arab countries that adopt the same stand?

[Shaykh Sa'd] First of all, I would like to correct your question regarding the flying of flags. Some people think that what will happen is that the Kuwaiti flag will be lowered and the U.S. flag raised. No, what will happen is a reregistration, which is more important than raising the flag — a reregistration of these ships according to international laws and regulations. This is a legitimate and recognized matter.

As for the question of renting, at the beginning of my address I said that we rented a number of oil tankers from the Soviet Union.

As for the third part of your question, which regards the compatibility of China's approval of renting its ships, I do not want to overtake events by answering on behalf of Chinese officials, but I have said that the Kuwaiti request is still being studied by the Chinese officials.

Now the fourth point in your question: With all my appreciation of the opinion and policy of some officials in the Arab co[illegible]es, as an Arab I sincerely hope that all the Arabs will stan[illegible] against any aggression against any Arab country.

['Alawna] Yusuf 'Alawna of the Kuwaiti *Al-Siyasah*. Your Highness, the world is clearly optimistic these days about an end to the war, and the superpowers are determined to make a decision tonight, or this afternoon, at the Security Council in order to halt the war. I would like to ask Your Highness if you share this optimism, and, if it should come true, what in your opinion are the immediate benefits which could be gained both in the Gulf and at Arab level? And what is Kuwait's role in the attempts made to halt the war?

[Shaykh Sa'd] I am always optimistic, and we hope the members of the Security Council will agree on the draft resolution which will be discussed this afternoon. Naturally, the results hoped for through the implementation of this resolution are many. First, this resolution calls for an immediate end to the war now going on between Iraq and Iran; the withdrawal of military forces to the positions they held prior to the start of the fighting; the exchange of prisoners; noninterference in each other's internal affirs; and also to give the UN secretary general the necessary time to get in touch with the two countries in order to reach a settlement and to implement the terms of this resolution.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] Do you not think that the situation now calls for convening an Arab summit? And if the United States and Britain really wanted to stop the war, would they have found it difficult to do so? In your introduction, we heard nothing about the role of the [Gulf] Cooperation Council and its stand with regard to solidarity with Kuwait.

[Shaykh Sa'd] Thank you. Concerning the first part of your question about convening an Arab summit conference, Kuwait has always been fully prepared to attend any Arab meeting at any level to discuss the aggression now being directed against an Arab country. Second, there are many other issues with which we are concerned here in Kuwait, and it is high time the leaders of the Arab nation met in order to reach an agreement on how to solve these issues.

With regard to the role of the superpowers and their ability, if they wanted to end this war — which will enter its 8th year in 2 months' time — I believe there are many ways in which these powers can, without using force, convince the opposing sides that it is high time they stopped this war. As you know, there is a consensus among the members of the Security Council to come out with this resolution which calls for an immediate cease-fire.

[Jack] My name is David Jack from *Time* magazine. The Iraqi president said he is not interested in a partial cease-fire — namely, stopping the attacks on the ships in the Gulf. Do you think President Saddam Husayn would be willing to stop all military operations or a partial stoppage of aggressive operations in the Gulf?

[Shaykh Sa'd] The answer to this question is that the world has heard that Iraq, in principle, has agreed and will agree on the draft resolution now being debated by the Security Council. And as Iraq demands that the resolution be comprehensive — calling for a cease-fire on all fronts — we also see that this resolution (?must) call for a cease-fire on all fronts.

[Al-Kamal] Thank you, Your Excellency, heir apparent and Kuwait's prime minister. My name is Ahmad al-Kamal of *Akhbar al-Khalij* in Bahrain. After hoisting foreign flags — Russian and U.S. — on the tankers, if Iran strikes these tankers and a war or a clash ensues between Iran and the side which has been hit, what would be the stand of Kuwait and the stand of the other Gulf countries?

[Shaykh Sa'd] I cannot preempt events and announce the Kuwaiti stand to be adopted in case of aggression against Kuwaiti ships because, as our proverb says: For every event there is a comment. I also hope that the situation will not reach that point. Regarding the role of Kuwait and that of the other sister states in the Gulf, all have heard the statement of the Ministerial Council meeting held in Jedda, which said in absolute clarity and frankness that any aggression against Kuwait is an aggression against the member states of the GCC.

[Barn] Your Highness. John Barn, from *U.S. News and World Report*: You have requested the U.S. to protect your tankers. However, neither Kuwait nor the other Gulf states have allowed U.S. fighter aircraft to have bases or to fly over or land in your territory in the process of protecting these tankers. Would you be kind enough to explain why?

[Shaykh Sa'd] Let me answer your question. I do not want to answer your question on behalf of our brothers in the Gulf states. They know their interests, and they know (?what is being prepared) for their country in the present and future. With regard to our policy, we have already told the officials in the United States that with regard to the military question, we believe we should leave that to the military people to talk about. But I am sure the members of the U.S. Government know our position, and they know that we are not ready to offer air or naval bases. And if you want to know whether Kuwait will be able to offer certain

facilities in other cases, this can be discussed later with Kuwaiti officials. I hope I answered your question. Thank you.

[(Shubshiyenko), speaking in Arabic] Vladimir (Shubshiyenko) from *Izvestiya*. Your Excellency, heir apparent, and prime minister, as is known, the Soviet Government proposed the withdrawal of all foreign fleets from the Gulf region as an important step toward the reduction of tension in the region. What is the attitude of your country concerning this matter?

[Shaykh Sa'd] Perhaps you remember that I said at the beginning that the military fleets of these states have been present for tens of years. They are present in international sea-lanes, in the Arab Gulf, and I believe they are present in the Red Sea and in the Mediterranean. The withdrawal of these ships is a matter left to the international community.

[Reporter] Jalal [name indistinct], managing editor of the Cairo *Al-Akhbar* newspaper. Has the date for hoisting the U.S. flag on the first Kuwaiti ship been fixed? Will this happen the day after tomorrow, on Wednesday? Are there any financial burdens to be shouldered by Kuwait in relation to the operation for protecting the ships carrying Kuwaiti oil? And are the agreements signed by Kuwait in relation to the leasing of tankers sufficient for covering all Kuwait's oil exports?

[Shaykh Sa'd] Personally, I do not like to hear the expression hoisting flags. I prefer hearing it called the reregistration of ships, instead of hoisting flags. As to when this measure will take place, it is possible that it will take place this week. Concerning your question on the financial cost of providing protection, Kuwait has not been asked to pay any special costs. Also, I do not like to hear talk about protection, rather I prefer references to be about accompanying the tankers. As for the third part of your question, I have said we leased ships from the USSR, and mentioned their number. I also said the U.S. authorities have agreed to the reregistration of Kuwaiti tankers, and we are also ready to lease more oil tankers from sister and friendly countries. I repeat, we are fully prepared.

[Al-'Allaf] Hani al-'Allaf from Iraqi *Al-Thawrah*. Your Highness, President Saddam Husayn, on more than one occasion, has stressed that Iraq stands by fraternal Kuwait against any Iranian aggression. What do you think of that, and how do you view Iraqi-Kuwaiti relations during this stage?

Second question: It has become clear that the Iranian regime considers the countries of the Arabian Gulf as its target, with fraternal Kuwait in the forefront; what do you think of the Arab stand? Do you expect the Arab reply to match the level demanded by the spirit of pan-Arabism?

Third question: In order to justify its threats, aggression, and sabotage against Kuwait, the Iranian regime has always used the pretext that Kuwait supports Iraq, ignoring the unity of Arab security and destiny. How do you answer the claims of that regime?

[Shaykh Sa'd] We can divide your questions, and start by answering your first question concerning the Iraqi position. On this occasion I would like to declare for the record the appreciation of the Kuwaiti amir, Government, and people for fraternal Iraq — the president, Government, and people — for their brave position; whereby, in case of any aggression against Kuwait, the Iraqi forces, together with the Kuwaiti Armed Forces, will repel this aggression. In fact, this position has made the best impression on many of my fellow citizens.

At the beginning of my talk, I said that the Arabs — all the Arabs — should now look at the developments and dangers of this war, which began in 1980 and is still continuing and escalating. The leaders of the Arab nation should hasten to find a solution to end this war in any way or through any means. Iraq should not be left alone in this battle. The land of Iraq is a part of the Arab land. Any aggression against, or occupation of, an inch of the land of Iraq is considered to be an occupation of an inch of the whole Arab land.

[Al-'Allaf] In order to justify its threats, aggressions, and sabotage against Kuwait, the Iranian regime has always used the pretext that Kuwait supports Iraq, ignoring the unity of Arab security and destiny. How do you answer the claims of that regime?

[Shaykh Sa'd] We have heard many threats from Iranian officials because of the Kuwaiti position, a position which we consider to be compatible with the principles in which we believe. We, in Kuwait, have found that this policy is good for the present and future of Kuwait. All these years we have tried to make the Iranian side understand the Kuwaiti position, and we avoided adopting several measures which could have been interpreted by the Iranian side as a provocation. We are still working to find the formula which could be acceptable to all the fighting sides in order to end to this war.

As I said sometime ago, we have intensified our efforts and contacts with the Iranian officials. We hoped that when the fifth ICO summit was held, Iran would have attended and submitted its view to the leaders of the Islamic countries. Unfortunately, Iran refused and boycotted that conference. However, in spite of this boycott, we considered it necessary that the amir send a message — conveyed by the ICO secretary general, together with a Kuwaiti official — which included all the resolutions and recommendations adopted by the fifth ICO summit. Unfortunately, the Iranian reply was to refuse to receive the ICO secretary general and the Kuwaiti envoy.

[(Whitley)] Your Highness, I am Andrew (Whitley) from the *International Press*, London. There have been previous UN resolutions concerning the Iraqi-Iranian conflict, but they have not been implemented. If today's resolutiton is not implemented, will Kuwait be in favor of imposing forcible sanctions, such as a ban on deliveries of arms to both combatant states?

[Shaykh Sa'd] I believe, like you, the Security Council has implemented a number of resolutions in the last few years. But let us all hope that the Security Council will be able this time to come out with a decisive resolution. I sincerely hope that Iran and Iraq will accept this resolution. If not, as you know, the Security Council will convene again to debate the steps or the measures which it intends to adopt. Thank you.

[(Whitley)] Your Highness, I will be grateful if you can tell us about Kuwait's stand if the Security Council reconvenes to discuss the imposition of a ban on arms deliveries.

[Shaykh Sa'd] This decision rests with the Security Council.

[Reporter] *Independent Television News*, London: If I may ask you a question Your Excellency — I am here on your left. In the event of an attack against Kuwaiti tankers which have been reflagged, have you reached agreement with the United States about the extent of the retaliation on the part of the United States in reply to this attack? And if not, what is the limit of the retaliation to which Kuwait will agree?

[Shaykh Sa'd] With regard to your question, I will leave it to the United States to take whatever steps it deems appropriate. As to our stand, I have said frankly that Kuwait is ready to defend itself.

[Reporter] So there is no agreement between you and the United States about the limit of a retaliatory reply if an Iranian attack takes place.

[Shaykh Sa'd] I do not understand what you mean.

[Same reporter] (?I mean) any retaliatory reply from the United States which would be acceptable to you.

[Shaykh Sa'd] I do not wish to answer on behalf of the U.S. authorities concerning the forces which they will (?deploy) in the event of an attack against one of their vessels by Iranian warships. I think I have been quite clear in my answer. Thank you.

[Khatib] Farid Khatib, deputy chief editor of the magazine *Al-Hawadith*. Concerning the question of reregistering Kuwaiti tankers. To what extent is this Kuwaiti decision popular inside the GCC states?

[Shaykh Sa'd] Perhaps you were following my statement when I said that the replies which we have received came not only from the leaders of the Gulf states, but from the leaders of all the fraternal and friendly states supporting these measures taken by Kuwait to safegaurd our economic and commercial interests.

[Khatib] Do you think the extent of this support is enough?

[Shaykh Sa'd] What I want to say is that most of what we have been told by the brothers confirms that they are on Kuwait's side in regard the measures we have taken. They also said they support Kuwait and that they are ready to stand alongside Kuwait against any aggression on Kuwaiti territory. Thank you.

[Khalat] Your Highness the heir apparent, I am Salih Khalat from the magazine *Al-Majallah*. The explosions which took place in Kuwait recently — there was a series of explosions — and you have arrested some people. My question is specific: According to your investigations, are these explosions taking place in order to achieve the liberation of those arrested? Or are they part of the Iranian pressure on you with regard to the issue of ships, the war issue, and to your standpoint toward Iraq? Thank you.

[Shaykh Sa'd] With regard to the elements who carried out their instructions concerning of explosions aimed against the oil companies, thanks be to God, we arrested those responsible. They are still in prison serving their sentences. As for the threats we have received and the terrorism, in this small country — small in population but powerful by its faith in God and great by its aspirations — we have rejected these threats; we still reject them, and we will reject them in the future. We will not surrender to terrorism or blackmail, and the sentences will be implemented. It is not possible to free those prisoners as a result of pressures or threats.

[Mirani] Husayn Mirani, from the magazine *Al-Tadamun*, London. Your Highness, my question has two parts. First, some circles talk about the need for convening an Islamic emergency summit. Is this likely, especially now that an Arab summit is in the cards after being considered unlikely for some time? The second part of the question: Why is a meeting of Arab foreign and defense ministers not convened in order to implement the Arab League joint defense treaty, especially now that the Arab Defense Council is more than ever in need of meeting in order to implement the Arab League charter? Thank you.

[Shaykh Sa'd] With regard to the idea put forward these days concerning the need for a meeting of the Islamic states' leaders, we have listened to this proposal. As you know, Kuwait chairs the current session of the [ICO] conference, and coordination and consultations with all the leaders of the Islamic states with regard to this issue will take place. If they believe the time is ripe for holding such a meeting, they are welcome to hold it in Kuwait.

As for the meeting of the foreign ministers in order to look into the clauses of the Arab League charter, meetings are continuously being held by the brother members of the Arab League, and I do not now want to discuss this issue in detail. It is possible that when you meet with the Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, he will inform you of the steps which have been taken on this issue. Thank you.

[Reporter] Heir apparent and prime minister, after the current noise about reregistering the Kuwaiti merchant ships in the Gulf, are there any obstacles facing the Kuwaiti plan? If so, what are the probable [word indistinct]? Second question: In light of the events in the Gulf, especially after raising the matter of reregistering the Kuwaiti tankers, how can Kuwait (?strike) a balance between the two superpowers?

[Shaykh Sa'd] Thank you. I [word indistinct] you used the work noise concerning the Kuwaiti step; yet, it is an unjustified noise. As to how Kuwait can achieve cooperation with the superpowers, you know Kuwait is a small country which is friendly with all countries. The policy which we adopt is to work for more cooperation with the big and small countries. There is nothing wrong in renting or reregistering an oil tanker with the big countries. We rented ships from the Soviet Union, and the United States agreed to reregister Kuwaiti oil tankers. In our opinion, there is no danger or harm in adopting such a policy.

[Faraj] 'Abd al-Sattar Faraj, INA: What does Your Highness and fraternal Kuwait think of the five principles declared by President Saddam Husayn for ending the war and establishing peace? And what is your opinion on the Iranian position refusing to end the war? My second question: The mines that were found in Kuwaiti territorial waters led to a wave of popular and international indignation, and it was proven that Iran was responsible for laying these mines, trying to influence the positive Kuwaiti stand calling for an end to the war. Did Kuwait convey to the Iranian side its protest on this aggressive behavior? Thank you.

[Shaykh Sa'd] We have announced our position and opinion more than once. We (?would like), together with our brothers in Iraq, to find a formula to end this war — whether this formula includes four, five or eight articles. We are talking about strategy, and strategy is working to end this war.

Second, concerning the discovery of mines in Kuwaiti territorial waters, the Kuwaiti Navy was able to discover the positions of all these mines. Yesterday morning, with the cooperation of the Saudi Navy and some U.S. experts and technicians, we were able to explode all these mines, which were discovered in the past few days. I will not be revealing a secret if I say that a Saudi minesweeper will now carry out a comprehensive sweep in order to detect any more mines. However, the information we have now indicates that the mines, discovered during the past few days, were exploded yesterday.

[(Micro)] Adam (Micro) from the BBC. You have not explained [words indistinct] the warships. Would you be kind enough to state the British Government's response to your request to reregister the ships and hoist the British flag, and if there are other arrangements with the British Government? The British vessels were chartered by the Kuwaiti authorities; the three ships, oil tankers, which were chartered by the Kuwaiti authorities. And in regard [passage indistinct]. Did you receive the same assistance from Britain?

[Shaykh Sa'd] What kind of experts do you mean?

[(Micro)] I mean any kind of experts, like the U.S. experts who searched for mines. Are there any British experts?

[Shaykh Sa'd] We have no British experts or British (?technicians) working with us. However, if we were in need of such experts we would contact the British authorities.

[Anso] I am David Anso, and I work for the U.S. ABC News. I have two questions. First, you have said that if Iran attacked one of these reregistered ships, which are being protected by the U.S. Navy, then the U.S. military themselves will decide how to deal with this attack. However, I ask you: Will you join, or have you discussed with them, the range of options; and specifically, would you agree to attack a missile base if a missile was fired at a reregistered Kuwaiti ship? This is the first question.

The second question relates to a previous reply of yours concerning those who have been convicted for their involvement in the explosions inside Kuwait. You have said that the sentences passed on them are being implemented and that Kuwait will not yield to any terrorist threats. Many of those convicted were sentenced to death. I ask you if any of these sentences were carried out, and if there is any intention to reduce these sentences?

[Shaykh Sa'd] Allow me to answer the first part of your question, relating to the possibility of an Iranian attack of an oil tanker. There are tankers carrying gasoline and flying the U.S. flag. I have no doubt that the Americans will protect their flags. This is the reply to the first part of your question.

Regarding those who have been sentenced and are in prisons. No death sentence has been carried out; they are still in prison. The matter is before the amir, so the matter is still open; and his highness the amir will decide on it.

[Musalim] Ahmad Musalim, managing editor of *Oman* newspaper. Your Excellency, at the start of this conference, (?you) said the issue of the reregistration of Kuwaiti ships is purely a commercial issue. Because of this, does not Your Excellency believe that it has come somewhat late, since 7 years have passed since the outbreak of the war? Or does this reflect Kuwaiti anxiety over the continuation of the war and its reaching more difficult stages? And because the matter is a commercial one, it is known that there were other options for Kuwait and sister countries having no outlet to the sea other then the Gulf — the laying of oil pipelines through Omani soil. Does Your Excellency believe that such options provide commercial advantages more so than reregistration? Thank you, Your Excellency.

[Shaykh Sa'd] The war will continue, according to our knowledge. But let me beg from my heart to hear news to the effect that the concerned parties in this war have agreed to a cease-fire tonight.

As to the issue of our decision being late, our view is that it is necessary for Kuwaiti oil to reach the international market, and so to pursue this policy of leasing oil tankers from the five [Security Council] states. Indeed, we leased oil tankers from the USSR, and the U.S. authorities have agreed to the reregistration of Kuwaiti oil tankers.

The third part of the question concerns the pumping of oil through pipes: This matter is being studied by the concerned ministers, and in Kuwait this matter is being discussed between the Kuwaiti oil minister and the brothers in the Gulf countries.

[Al-Sa'id] Hamad al-Sa'id, editor of *Al-Ra'y al-'Amm* newspaper. Some of the events to which Kuwait is being subjected — such as the type of mines laid in some of the sea lanes or the weapons being used by Iran in attacking oil tankers, the (?planting) of some Chinese missiles — have proven the readiness of Iran to hit at tankers and threaten sea lanes. This means there are some states which claim to be friends of the GCC countries, such as China, Korea, and other states, which provide Iran with the weapons which help it to continue its aggression against us and against sister Iraq. What are Kuwait and the GCC countries doing to end this dangerous role being played by foreign countries, which claim to be our friends while stabbing us in the back?

The second part of the question, Your Excellency, concerns sister Egypt in its national stances and patriotism toward the causes of this nation, particularly its attitudes toward the Iranian aggression against Iraq and its declared, absolute attitude of standing by Kuwait against all Iranian threats. Has not the time come for restoration of relations with sister Egypt and the dropping of this imaginary barrier? Egypt has proven that it is more patriotic than some of the Arab states which raise the banner of Arabism and patriotism. Thank you.

[Shaykh Sa'd] Concerning Iran acquiring weapons and military equipment: We talk to officials in the supplying states and their response is always a denial. Regarding the issue of support by the people of Egypt for Kuwait, as I said at the beginning, the people of Kuwait will never forget it. Returning to the issue of some states supplying Iran with military equipment, we ask their officials about it, and their answer always comes as a denial. But there is more than one way which Iran and others can get these types of weapons. But let us await the Security Council resolution. I believe that one of its clauses calls on all states to deny supplies to any party which refuses to implement the Security Council resolution. As regards the mines...

[Reporter interrupts] Part of the question was about the presence of mines laid along the Kuwaiti coast. These mines are of U.S. [word indistinct] manufacture.

[Shaykh Sa'd] Our Defense Ministry specialists will examine these mines and learn their country of origin. I do not wish to expand on this. I know that our specialists are investigating the types of mines and the side or the country which manufactures them.

[Husayn] Fu'ad Husayn of the *Al-Usbu' al-'Arabi* magazine. Has the French Government informed you of why they are taking their time in responding to your request concerning the tankers? And do you expect a clearer response from France after the severing of its relations with Iran?

[Shaykh Sa'd] Concerning the Kuwaiti request, which has been presented to the French authorities, (?we have been told) unofficially that France still has some naval units in the Arabian Sea. As for our request on reregistering the oil tankers or chartering French oil tankers, we undertstand from the French authorities that they are studying this request and that their reply will be positive. With regard to the second part, that is, if a change will take place in the French stand after the breaking off of diplomatic relations between France and Iran, the answer to this question is premature. We in Kuwait are not opportunists. And we do not wish to involve other states in the conflict in this vital area.

[Salamah] Husayn Salamah of *Al-Watan* newspaper. Your Highness, the recent diplomatic campaign for peace in the Gulf embraced scores of Arab, Islamic, and foreign states. To what extent does Your Highness believe this campaign was able to increase the international drive for the adoption of a Security Council resolution? Thank you.

[Shaykh Sa'd] I have said more than once that his highness the amir, may God protect him, sent envoys to the leaders of fraternal and friendly states with messages drawing attention to the gravity of the situation in this area. The replies we received from the leaders of a number of states were positive. They contained an appreciation of Kuwait's stand and complete support for all the steps and measures Kuwait has taken to safeguard our security and our interests.

As to the question of contacting members of the Security Council, yes, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister sent messages to the foreign ministers of the five members concerning this matter. In addition his highness, may God protect him, also sent messages to the heads of state of the five permanent members of the Security Council, informing them of the serious developments in this area. As I have said, and I say it again now, all have been made aware of the seriousness of the situation in this area and all have appreciated the measures we have taken and are taking to protect our country from any aggression.

[Al-Naqqash] Aminah al-Naqqash of the Cairo *Al-Ahali* newspaper. Your Highness, you explained the aims and reasons which prompted the State of Kuwait to call on the big powers to take part in the escorting of Kuwait's oil tankers. Can Your Highness shed some light on the way you see the goals of these states in agreeing to take part in this and what benefit can the big powers derive from this measure? This is the first question. The second question is: Do you believe, Your Highness, that asking the United States to take part in the Kuwaiti measure is in accordance with Arab interests in light of the revelations from the Irangate scandal?

[Shaykh Sa'd] Concerning the question which deals with (?my own view), I have spoken more than once about the continuing Iranian attacks on Kuwaiti vessels and the need for Kuwaiti oil to reach international markets. I have said oil is our only resource, and I found it necessary to contact the friendly big powers. For the sake of cooperation between us and these states, they responded and we thank them for it, by chartering some of their oil tankers. The others agreed to reflag Kuwaiti oil tankers.

As to what benefit this would be, what is the meaning of friendship and cooperation among the states of the world? When we talk about friendship it should be translated into a tangible action. And this is what has happened. Here at this meeting I place on record my thanks and appreciation to the states that responded favorably to Kuwait's request, whether allowing us to charter their oil tankers or agreeing to reregister Kuwaiti oil tankers.

The second and the third part of the question concerning the Iranian-U.S. (?dispute)...[Shaykh Sa'd hesitates] this has actually happened. In fact, we have been following up the condemnation and the denunciation by the majority of American people against what happened. We do not predict the future, but I would not like to give an answer. This question should be directed at one of the U.S. officials.

[Al-Burtuqali] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Tahani al-Burtuqali, *Al-Ahram* correspondent in Kuwait. Your Highness, the heir apparent, and prime minister, what steps is Kuwait taking to protect the homeland internally and does Your Excellency believe the time has now come to prepare

Kuwaiti citizens for an internal mobilization, such as training citizens in carrying weapons, teaching them first aid, etc? Has this time come, Your Excellency — particularly in the event of the continuation of the war on your border, God forbid, and also in the event of internal disorder, which we sense from one day and another — or is this matter still far from implementation in the hope that a decision on ending the war will be made? Thank you.

[Shaykh Sa'd] Thank you for this question. As regards the measures to protect the homeland internally, everyone who reads the history of Kuwait carefully will find that Kuwait has been subjected to many aggressions and threats, but thanks to the cooperation, solidarity, steadfastness, and heroism of its people, Kuwait was able to repulse such aggressions. History repeats itself. And also this generation, the sons of those heroes, senses the gravity of the responsibilities and senses that the time has come to defend their country. This depends primarily on more cohesion in the internal front, and God willing like the fathers and forefathers' steadfastness and repulsion of such aggressions, we shall all stand fast and work as one under the leader of our prosperity, his highness the amir.

I want to point out that I said at the start of this meeting that I am ready to stay with you until you [words indistinct]. [laughter and applause]

[Ghazali] My name is 'Abd al-Wahhab Ghazali from the Turkish *Milliyet* newspaper. I want to ask about two points concerning the provision of maritime facilities for U.S. ships for the re-registered Kuwaiti ships [as heard]. Will you open your ports to provide maritime facilities to the U.S. ships which protect the re-registered Kuwaiti tankers? Are you opening your ports to provide maritime facilities to the U.S. fleet ships protecting your tankers in the Gulf?

[Shaykh Sa'd] I never said we will open our naval or air bases, but I answered a question on this matter and said that if the Americans need some sort of facility, then this matter can be discussed. But as regards military facilities, this matter can be discussed with the military.

[Ghazali] Another point, regarding speculation concerning the changing of the time table for the U.S. operation to protect your ships: Did you ask the Americans to bring more ships, or to present another plan for the escorting of ships?

[Shaykh Sa'd] Please phrase your question clearly for me to able to answer it.

[Ghazali] There was speculation concerning changes in the time table for escorting the tankers because of the disapproval, or the dissatisfaction of the Kuwaiti Government. Did you ask the U.S. Government to increase the number of warships, or to present a new plan for escorting the Kuwaiti ships?

[Shaykh Sa'd] The second part of your question I did not understand fully and I will try to answer what I have understood of it. We have not asked the U.S. authorities to place one or two warships to escort the oil tankers. This is a matter for the U.S. military personnel to decide. Have I answered the first part of your question?

[Ghazali] Yes.

[Shaykh Sa'd] As regards the second part of your question, to the effect that we have delayed or changed the timing of the beginning of the escort operation, we did not contact the U.S. officials in order to change the time table for escorting the Kuwaiti ships.

I already said the oil tankers will arrive in Kuwait sometime this week. I beg you not to ask me about the definite date for that.

[Reporter] My name is [words indistinct] from the Japanese daily (?*Chugai Nippo*). I would like to ask you about the cost involved in reflagging the tankers to the U.S. flag. How much has this measure cost the Kuwaiti Government or the tanker company? I mean, your government will pay the full cost of reflagging, which is quite [word indistinct] rather than military. So I am asking what, in commercial terms, this reflagging measure is costing your country? This is the first question.

[Shaykh Sa'd interrupts] Yes, yes. I do not now recall how much we are going to pay for chartering the vessels. I cannot tell you how much. You can ask the people working in the Oil Ministry and I am sure they will tell you.

[Same reporter] The Kuwaiti Government and the oil (?company) are still continuing the special arrangement with Iraq. With regard to oil in the neutral zone between Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, are you still continuing with this measure of [words indistinct]?

[Shaykh Sa'd] I would ask you to see the minister of oil about these questions as well; please ask him. Thank you.

[Reporter] Sa'd [name indistinct] from Qatar radio. Your Highness the heir apparent. We know the U.S. ships will escort the tankers until they reach international waters. What will be the stand if the Kuwaiti ships are subject to strikes inside Kuwaiti territorial waters — and this is not an unlikely thing to happen? Also, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister said this contract for reregistering was for 1 year. Is this contract open to renewal? And if so, for how long?

[Shaykh Sa'd] If Kuwaiti ships are subject to attack inside our territorial waters, or even if ships other than Kuwaiti ships are subject to a foreign attack, the instructions given to the Kuwaiti Armed Forces — the land, air, and sea forces — are to immediately respond to any aggression directed against Kuwaiti interests.

Regarding the second part of your question on the duration of the contract, it is the first time I have heard such a thing. Possibly you have heard a rumor or maybe there is a misunderstanding. The contract is open and in fact it is not limited to a specific period of time. The person who picked this item of news could have been confused. Regarding the Soviet Union, there is an agreement. However, we have an understanding from the Soviet Union that when we ask for more oil tankers we have to notify

them a month in advance, before they can send a large number of tankers from Russia.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] from ABC. You have said in your opening address that by reregistering the ships you did not intend to increase tension in the Gulf. However, the presence of 50 U.S. ships in the Gulf constitutes a provocation to the Soviet Union and Iran. Do you think this constitutes a provocation? And is there anyone from the GCC to speak about this? I cannot understand. You said the United States has sent a naval force composed of about 50 ships, and Iran and the Soviet Union say this number is provocative. Do you think this number really is provocative — 15 ships? [as heard]

[Shaykh Sa'd] Did they say there were 15 or 7 or 8? Please continue.

[Reporter] In any case, did you or did the GCC states put a limit to the number of U.S. ships present in the area?

[Shaykh Sa'd] No, we have discussed this with our brothers in the GCC and we maintain close cooperation. Regarding the number of U.S. warships, I have no idea whether there are 15 or 10 ships. There could be less than 10, and at other times they might increase the number. However, at the moment I cannot say how many U.S. ships there are.

[Reporter] You are leaving a great deal to the United States. Do you have absolute trust in them?

[Shaykh Sa'd] Yes, we do trust each other. If there was no trust between us how could we coexist and cooperate. Thank you.

[Al-Sa'ad] Ahmad al-Sa'ad of the *Al-Khalij* paper, Al-Shariqah. Your Highness, heir apparent, and prime minister, the Gulf countries have repeatedly said the Gulf's security is the responsibility of its sons. How does this tally with the policy of chartering tankers from foreign states, and why did we not see any effective action taken by the Gulf states to confront the recent developments in the Gulf, like the formation of a Gulf force to protect the tankers? Thank you.

[Shaykh Sa'd] We have a principle, and we have said more than once that we do not want the superpowers to interfere in the affairs of this region, either now or in the future, and we do not want any state in the Arab Gulf to claim it is entitled to dominate or that its word carries weight in this region. As Gulf states, we aspire to further cooperation and solidarity among all the littoral states of the Arab Gulf. With regard to the question on this point of our policy, all that has taken place is of a commercial nature. We have chartered ships from the USSR, and the U.S. has accepted reregistering oil tankers in accordance with international requirements. We now have between 20 and 40 ships chartered by the Oil Ministry.

[Bakri] Mustafa Bakri of the Cairo-based magazine *Al-Musawwar*. In the context of the repeated Iranian threats against the Arab Gulf states, and in view of the plots being hatched against its territories, the question of a prominent Egyptian role for the protection of the Gulf's security has been raised. Egypt has expressed its readiness to carry out such a role. The question is: What are the results of the talks with Egypt on this matter, and was Egypt recently asked to carry out any role in the protection of the Gulf's security, especially in clearing the Arab Gulf of Iranian mines?

[Shaykh Sa'd] With regard to Egypt's stand and its assistance to Kuwait and the GCC states, I have said more than once that this stand enjoys the consideration of the people of Kuwait. The contacts and consultations between us and our brothers are continuing, but so far we see no need to ask our brothers in Egypt to send military forces. We have discussed with them matters relating to military affairs, but naturally the envoy who conveyed a message from his highness to His Excellency President Husni Mubarak returned with a message from his excellency the president expressing the stand of Egypt and its people by the side of Kuwait and against any aggression directed against Kuwait.

[Jamal] 'Abd al-Majid Jamal of the Egyptian *Akhbar al-Yawm*. Your Highness, allow me to move to another aspect of Kuwaiti policy since it is particularly an effective Arab policy, and Kuwait is the current chairman of the Organization of Islamic Countries. The question is: What is Kuwait's stand toward the convening of an international conference to solve the Middle East problem in the light of the present contacts? What is Kuwait's stand toward the issue concerning who should take part, the debate going on around it, and how to represent it? And does Kuwait agree with the other Arab states and the PLO on its main clauses? Thank you.

[Shaykh Sa'd] We announced our policy with regard to the proposal for convening an international conference and we said we welcome such a conference under the auspices of the United Nations and with the participation of the five Security Council members and the parties concerned, and also the participation of PLO representatives.

[Siddiqi] Hani Siddiqi from Arab Press. When the war between Iraq and Iran ends, as we all hope, do you think the commercial arrangements concerning the reregistering of the Kuwaiti ships will end? If the war between Iraq and Iran ends, as we hope, will the commercial arrangements between Kuwait and the United States end?

[Shaykh Sa'd] I would be glad to hear news about an end to the war between Iraq and Iran. I would be more than happy to hear this. As for what will happen afterwards and after the end of the war, it is premature to talk about what will happen to this commercial agreement. Let us all hope the war between Iraq and Iran will end. As for the commercial agreement, it is not a problem.

[Reporter] Your Highness, Faruq al-Shar' visited Kuwait and before that Saudi Arabia. Is it possible to find out what happened during these meetings, and is there any assurance that Iran will not commit aggression against Kuwait?

[Shaykh Sa'd] The Syrian foreign minister last week visited Iran; after that he visited Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. These meetings stem from the principle of exchanging views and pursuits for

finding a formula for ending the Iraq-Iran war. We have informed the Syrian foreign minister about Kuwait's clear and frank position.

[(Al-Rash)] Muhammad (al-Rash), UAE *Al-Fajr*. There is a question that occurs to every Arab citizen: The United States bombed Libya 1 and 1/2 years ago; it bombed Lebanon 2 years ago; and 30 years ago it announced its hostility toward us through Israel. How can we understand that the United States itself will come to protect us against a country with which it contracted arms deals throughout the years of the war? Especially as the United States has reregistered more tankers than the other countries. I mean, 2 tankers for the Soviet Union, while the United States registered a larger number — 11 tankers. Also, does this not constitute a crisis in the Arab and Gulf security system, as it means the GCC and the Arab League are unable to provide protection for the tankers of an Arab country? And does this not draw us back to the ancient era of protection which we got rid of 20-30 years ago when we established our independent countries?

[Shaykh Sa'd] Concerning your question about the United States. Do not forget Kuwait-U.S. cooperation. Do not forget that the United States cooperates with all the Arab countries in the various fields. A few days ago we heard and read that a senior envoy had arrived in fraternal Syria and discussed the question of resuming relations between the United States and Syria. We all read the statements reported after the departure of this U.S. official. This is an indication that our brothers in Syria intend to forget the past and turn over a new leaf in cooperation with the United States. I can see that the cooperation with the United States is not restricted to Kuwait or the Gulf countries; it exists with all the Arab countries in all fields.

[Taylor] Your Highness, I am Patrick Taylor from *The Washington Post*. We thank you for the time you have spent with us and I would like to let you know [words indistinct] I would like to ask you about the resolution being submitted to the United Nations. If this resolution does not succeed, and if the conflict breaks out again, do you hope Iraq will confine its war to the border between Iraq and Iran, and have you requested the Iraqi Government to put an end to the tankers war on the eve of the issuance of the UN resolution?

[Shaykh Sa'd] I know both Iraq and ourselves expect that the UN Security Council will approve the resolution on putting an end to the war between Iraq and Iran in all areas — at sea, on the ground, and in the air.

[Taylor] This is what we hope. However, the leadership of Iran has mentioned in recent statements and pointed out in straightforward language that it will not resume attacks against your tankers unless Iraq attacks its ships. I believe you are now in a situation which enables us to have a cease-fire before Iran resumes its attacks on the tankers; it rejected the resolution before it was issued. Will this lead Iraq to attack at sea, and consequently, will the tankers war resume?

[Shaykh Sa'd] This is a pretext of the Iranian authorities. My understanding is that the Iranian proposal has been rejected by the Iraqi authorities. Thank you.

[Chand] Kul Chand from *United News of India*, New Delhi. [Words indistinct] the solution is that the 11 oil tankers would be used for the shuttle services, that is, that they would carry out ordinary duties to transport oil to Europe?

[Shaykh Sa'd] All I know is that the Kuwaiti tankers will transport oil. However, I cannot mention now their destinations.

[Mahmud] Khalil Mahmud of [words indistinct]. Those who are trying to create an uproar are also trying to accuse Kuwait of making concessions to the United States. Has Kuwait made any concessions to the United States or not, in return for chartering and reregistering tankers?

[Shaykh Sa'd] We consider this to be a rumor or something designed to create a disturbance. In fact, Kuwait's stand is frank and clear. Therefore, at this conference, I say to you very clearly and frankly that Kuwait did not make any concessions nor will it give facilities or make concessions to any country.

[Reporter] Your Highness, I am Chris [name indistinct] with *Newsweek* magazine. I would like to follow up the question of my Indian colleague concerning the 11 oil tankers being reregistered, and if they will be making shuttle services or are they going to go outside of the Gulf? This is an important question to the United States because the destination of the tankers will determine the extent of the U.S. [word indistinct], and is this question being discussed or has a decision been made with the United States?

[Shaykh Sa'd] I have answered this question put to me by one of your colleagues here. There is no specific point at which these 11 tankers will [word indistinct]. Sometimes, they might go to (Khor Waqqan) or they might go to Japan or to Europe. This means you should not expect a shuttle service. I do not expect this but it might happen.

[Shihatah] Philip Shihatah with *Reuter*. Your Highness, there are two questions: The first is a continuation of an earlier question. To what extent did Iran take part in the recent bomb explosions in Kuwait? And the second question is: What are the chances of opening the Kuwaiti parliament in the near future?

[Shaykh Sa'd] I do not know whether to answer first the first part of your question or the second part. Which one would you prefer?

[Shihatah] Can we start with the first one?

[Shaykh Sa'd] I have said previously that Iranian naval forces stopped Kuwaiti merchant vessels and oil tankers, and (?regrettably) some of these vessels were (?threatened) with Iranian missiles. I do not wish to talk at length about this matter. I have answered all the questions put to me by [words indistinct]. With regard to the second part of your question, or the second question you put to me concerning the reopening of the Kuwaiti parliament, I say that this will take place when the right time comes. Thank you.

[(Early)] I am (Rosetta Early) with a Swedish newspaper. Can you tell us how many oil tankers will operate under the reflagging?

[Shaykh Sa'd] The number of tankers which have been reregistered is 11. I cannot tell you how many times they will (?sail) because this is in accordance with a schedule. I have no idea really. I think you know the reason.

[Reporter] Excuse me, Your Highness, I am [name indistinct]. I would like to know if you are planning to provide facilities for cameramen to take pictures of the tankers in the Gulf before or after reflagging?

[Shaykh Sa'd] I refer you on this matter to the minister of information.

[Reporter] All of us here need to film this kind of thing.

[Shaykh Sa'd] I think you can exchange opinions with the minister of information on this question later.

[Zayyat] Rashid Zayyat of the Qatar newspaper *Al-Rayah*. If Your Highness will permit me, I have a question in two parts. The first part concerns the possibility of Iran refusing to abide by the Security Council resolution which might be issued today. In this event, and during a previous reply by Your Highness you said the Security Council will (?vote for) the following step. One of the options put forward in this respect is to apply sanctions against the side which refuses to abide by the Security Council resolution. What is Kuwait's stand [words indistinct]?

The second part of the question concerns the Egyptian sailors who have been detained in Iran for about 10 days or 2 weeks and who were accused of infiltrating to carry out spying activities for Kuwait. What has been done to secure their release?

[Shaykh Sa'd] Concerning your question on the measures that might be taken by the Security Council in the event of an Iranian refusal, I said, and I say again, that I hope neighbor Iran will respond to the international appeal and agree to the resolution that will be taken by the Security Council, which is an international body. As to what will happen, it is left to the international community to take whatever decision it deems fit for international peace. With regard to the Egyptian brothers who were detained unjustly by the Iranian authorities, naturally contacts are going on with the Kuwaiti charge d'affaires to secure the release of these innocent people.

[Al-'Azzuni] Ahmad al-'Azzuni of the Kuwaiti *Al-Rasa'il*. It is known that the Gulf war, which broke out in 1980, was to cover up what was about to happen in Lebanon. And when the beastly invasion against Lebanon failed and never achieved its objectives, the PLO remained strong and never succumbed to United States or Zionist control. Will the Security Council be earnest in taking a resolution? The second question is: What are the steps taken to implement the call of Yasir 'Arafat to convene an Islamic summit, which someone in Kuwait has called for today. Thank you.

[Shaykh Sa'd] Regarding the reasons for the war which began in September 1980, I do not wish to talk now or mention the reasons which led to it. The reasons are many. But with regard to the attitude of the Security Council and the resolution being studied at present by the permanent members of the Security Council, the information we have states that this time there is an agreement, particularly among the five states, to approve all the provisions contained in this draft project. With regard to the part of your question concerning the call of Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] to convene an Islamic summit, I said in my reply to one of the questions: This idea was put forward by Brother Yasir 'Arafat. And we are awaiting the view of the leaders of the Islamic states with regard to this idea.

[Raqasimi] Bashir Raqasimi, chief editor of *Al-Sabah* magazine. My Lord, Your Highness. At the begining of your statement, you said the Arab and Muslim leaders and presidents who have been visited by Kuwaiti envoys expressed complete appreciation and support for the Kuwaiti policy, which has always been characterized by equilibrium, moderation, and wisdom. My question is specific. What about the Arab states in particular. Has their support for Kuwait reached the same level as Iraq's support for Kuwait. I specify four states: the PDRY, Algeria, Libya, and Syria. Thank you.

[Shaykh Sa'd] Without naming the states, I will answer your question in a comprehensive way. The replies we received indicated that all the Arab states stand alongside Kuwait with regard to defending our entity and independence.

[Unidentified official] Brothers and sisters, men of the press and information, we have come to the end of this grand news and infomation meeting with His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, crown prince and prime minister, may God protect him, it gives me pleasure to once again place on record, the most sincere forms of thanks and appreciation and to present the highest forms of salute in your name to his highness, may God protect him.

It was a fruitful meeting and it was a splendid dialogue and his highness was gracious enough to open his heart and give opportunities to all. This helped greatly in realizing your desire to cover and learn about all the developments and events. I would like to point out that there is a paper containing more details on all the important issues touched on by his highness, the crown prince and prime minister, which will be handed out to you at the end of this news conference in Arabic, English, and French.

Once again, I repeat my welcome to you and in the name of the Ministry of Information I wish you all a pleasant stay in the land of Kuwait among us, and a successful conclusion to your business and may God lead us all to success. Peace be upon you. [applause]

Press Views News Conference

LD210951 Kuwait KUNA in English 0805 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Text] Kuwait, July 21 (KUNA) — Kuwait has reaffirmed its previously declared stands calling for an immediate end to the Iraq-Iran war and for prevailing reconstruction rather than devastation, local papers said Tuesday, while commenting on His Highness the Crown Prince and Premier Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah's press conference Monday.

Al-Anba' said that his highness the crown prince was firm in outlining seriousness of the situation and in pinpointing causes of

tension in the Gulf region.

Shaykh Sa'd had nothing to hide confirming Kuwait's open policy that does not conceal truth but declares in the open what it discusses in closed meetings, it added.

Shaykh Sa'd has further asserted Kuwait's stable national stands and that it does not fear threats, the daily emphasized.

Al-Ra'y al-'Aam, for its part, reiterated Kuwait's official stance that the re-registration of its oil tankers was a mere commercial operation that opened a new method for positive international contribution to distance threats of war and conflicts.

It called on the superpowers to foresake the role of marketing weapons and to share in efforts to end fighting and allow free flow of "innocent shipping in the Gulf entrances and waters."

The paper lamented the fact that while Kuwait was advocating peace and pursuing the natural means of ensuring its interests, Iran was following up an unnatural path in insisting on obstinacy and on destructive warring.

Kuwait Times underlined that the Kuwaiti steps were taken in view of the abnormal circumstances currently prevailing in the Arabian Gulf.

"Kuwait has taken steps, in association with commercially allied partners, to ward off some apprehended uncertainties menacing its commercial shipping," the English-language daily underscored.

It noted, however, that the Gulf country's commitment to peace and determination to stay remote from involvement in the Iraq-Iran war remain unshakeable.

Reportage on UN Discussion, Resolution on Gulf

RCC-Ba'th Party Meeting

JN191913 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1844 GMT 19 Jul 87

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Jul (INA) — President Saddam Husayn has presided over a joint meeting between the Ba'th Party Regional Command and the RCC. During this meeting, the conferees reviewed the latest developments pertaining to the current UN Security Council deliberations on the Iraq-Iran war and the Security Council's decision to issue a binding resolution calling for the conflict's comprehensive settlement.

It is worth noting that the RCC and the Regional Command held a series of meetings over the last few days to follow up the UN Security Council's deliberations and to assess the stands adopted by the nations concerned with regard to major issues. They also discussed the Iraqi diplomatic activity undertaken to stress the nation's unwavering position in calling for a comprehensive settlement to the dispute, as well as Iraq's rejection of any partial solutions or suspect quarters that directly or indirectly seek to undermine the international will stressing the need for a comprehensive, just, and lasting settlement of the conflict.

UN Resolution on Gulf War

JN202242 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2143 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Text] New York, 20 Jul (INA) — The UN Security Council this evening unanimously approved a resolution calling for an immediate cease-fire between Iraq and Iran, for halting all land, air, and marine military operations, and for withdrawal to internationally recognized borders. The resolution was adopted following a Security Council session that all 15 members — including the five permanent members — attended to discuss the Iraq-Iran war and urgent methods of concluding it.

The resolution drafted in accordance with Articles 39 and 40 of the UN Charter's seventh chapter asked UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to send a team of UN observers to supervise the cease-fire and withdrawal. It also called on him to make the necessary arrangements with both sides and to prepare a report on this for submission to the Security Council. The resolution called for releasing all POW's and returning them to their homelands without any delay following the actual cessation of combat operations, in accordance with the Third Geneva Convention signed on 12 August 1949.

The Security Council resolution also urges both Iraq and Iran to cooperate with the UN secretary general in implementing the resolution's contents to achieve a comprehensive, just, and honorable settlement acceptable to both sides through mediation and to resolve all related issues according to the UN Charter and the United Nation's principles. The resolution urges all other countries to adhere to this resolution, to refrain from actions that might escalate and expand the conflict, and to contribute to this resolution's facilitation. The resolution urges the secretary general to consult with Iraq and Iran and to explore the possibility of forming a neutral body that would investigate responsibility for the conflict and submit a report to the Security Council on this as soon as possible.

The Council recognizes the grave losses resulting from the war and the need for reconstruction with appropriate international assistance should the armed conflict end. The Council thus urges the secretary general to appoint a team of experts to study this matter and to submit a report to the Security Council. The resolution also calls on the secretary general to discuss the measures needed to strengthen regional security and stability and to consult with Iraq and Iran. Moreover, the secretary general is called upon to inform the Security Council of the progress achieved in implementing the current resolution. The Council decided to meet again when necessary to discuss further steps guaranteeing adherence to the resolution's contents.

The Security Council session that approved this resolution was attended by the British foreign secretary, the PRC charge d'affaires, the French foreign minister, who chaired the session, the Soviet ambassador to the United Nations, and the U.S. secretary of state. These officials represented the Security Council's five permanent members. The other 10 member countries were represented by the Argentine foreign minister, the Bulgarian charge d'affaires, the Congolese ambassador to the United Nations, the FRG foreign minister, Ghana's ambassador to the United Nations, the Italian foreign minister, the UAE foreign minister, the Japanese deputy foreign minister, the Venezuelan charge d'affaires, and the Zambian ambassador to the United Nations.

Observers at the United Nations regard this resolution as being the result of unprecedented productive cooperation between the Security Council's five permanent members. The preparations, discussions, and intensive consultations on this resolution lasted 6 months.

'Ismat Kittani, Iraq's permanent UN representative, delivered a speech at the Security Council in which he praised the Council's concern about this serious conflict over the last 7 years. He lauded the efforts made by the UN secretary general and the Council's permanent and nonpermanent members to find a just, comprehensive, and permanent solution to the conflict. He stated: I would particularly like to note the efforts which have been exerted in recent months, stemming from the secretary general's initiative, efforts which focused on the need to move to a new level of interest on this issue. This must be a level embodying the conflict's seriousness and its threat to regional and international security and stability, as well as the enormous human and material losses that have resulted from it. He affirmed that the world has become deeply convinced of the need for the Council to adopt a binding resolution, based on the UN Charte, that will stop this conflict and lay down the foundation for a just and comprehensive settlement according to the Charter's principles and international law.

He declared that Iraq, which has responded positively to previous resolutions by the Council and has praised the Council's concern for the need to achieve a comprehensive settlement, will study the resolution carefully and earnestly. He affirmed that the Iraqi Government's official stance will be defined at the appropriate time after being examined by the nation's responsible political and constitutional bodies. The following is the text of the speech of Iraq's permanent UN representative:

Mr President: I am honored to attend the meetings of this esteemed Council and to be able to speak before it at this historic session. Iraq, which did not desire the war that was imposed on it on 4 September 1980, has always called for establishing a just, comprehensive, and permanent peace between itself and Iran. Iraq called for resolving the dispute with Iran through peaceful means and according to the UN Charter and international law. Moreover, Iraq from the beginning has accepted the United Nations' and the Security Council's ruling on the war with Iran, accepted all previous Security Council resolutions on this conflict, and expressed complete willingness to implement these resolutions with good intentions. I particularly wish to mention Resolution No 582, which your esteemed Council passed in February 1986 and which was ratified by Resolution 588 in 1986.

On behalf of the Iraqi Government, I wish to express deep appreciation for the Council's interest in this serious conflict over the last 7 years and for the efforts of the UN secretary general and the Council's permanent and nonpermanent members to achieve a just, comprehensive, and permanent solution to this war. I particularly would like to mention the efforts exerted during recent months stemming from the UN secretary general's initiative. These efforts focused on the need to move to a new level of interest, one reflecting the seriousness of this conflict and its grave threat to regional and international security and stability, as well as the serious human and material losses that have resulted from it.

The world has become deeply convinced that it is imperative for the Council to adopt a binding resolution. This resolution should employ the UN Charter to end this conflict. It should also lay the foundations for a just and comprehensive settlement according to the principles of the UN Charter and international law. Like many other circles in the international community — the Arab League, the ICO, the Nonaligned Movement, the EC, and other international organizations — we have welcomed the discussions that took place within the Council in recent months, discussions which have stressed the need to bring about practical and sober results.

The call for peace is a comprehensive worldwide call uttered every day not only in this region but also from all continents. This call is not confined to political circles, but has for a long time come from popular and parliamentary bodies, regardless of their political affiliation.

Mr President, today the Council adopted a resolution, based on the UN Charter, containing comprehensive elements and possessing a binding authority in accordance with the Charter. As the Iraqi Government's representative, I wish to state that I have received this resolution and will immediately convey it to my nation's higher authority.

On this occasion I am able to affirm that Iraq, which responded positively to the Council's previous resolutions and which has praised the Council's interest in the need to achieve a comprehensive settlement, will study this resolution carefully and earnestly.

The Iraqi Government's official stance will be defined at the appropriate time following study by the nation's responsible political and constitutional bodies.

Finally, I wish to reaffirm appreciation for your efforts. I wish to convey our hope and the hope of the region's peoples, and even of all nations, that the Council will shoulder its full responsibility in accordance with the UN Charter to establish a just, comprehensive, and permanent peace. Thank you.

Debate on UN Resolution Called

JN211058 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1040 GMT 21 JUL 87

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Jul (INA) — President Saddam Husayn chaired a joint meeting of the RCC and the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Command today. During the meeting, Security Council Resolution No 598 of 20 July 1987 was discussed.

In a statement to INA following this meeting, an official spokesman explained that President Saddam Husayn has decided to call for an extraordinary session of the National Assembly to discuss the Security Council resolution. This is in accordance with the authority granted to the president by amended Article 48 of the Constitution and clause 9 of Article 49 of the 1980 National Assembly Law No 55.

The spokesman declared that the final official stand on the Security Council resolution will be defined following the National Assembly debate.

In answer to a question by INA on his impression of the resolution, the spokesman replied: Our initial impression of the resolution's text is positive. We have followed the matter closely from the very beginning.

After being asked when Iraq will declare its official stand on the Security Council resolution, the spokesman answered that he expects a position will be declared prior to the end of the week.

ICO Secretary General Pirzada Begins Visit

Arrives in Baghdad 19 Jul

JN201103 Baghdad INA in English 1015 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Text] Baghdad, July 20, INA — The secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization, Sharifuddin Pirzada, arrived here yesterday on a several days visit to Iraq.

Mr. Pirzada was received in the airport by foreign under secretary, Nuri Isma'il al-Ways.

Meets With Tariq 'Aziz

JN201108 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1030 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Jul (INA) — Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today met with the ICO secretary general. During their meeting, they discussed the latest developments in Iran's aggression against Iraq, the UN Security Coun-

cil's ongoing efforts to issue a comprehensive resolution to end the war, and the ICO's efforts in this regard.

Received by Saddam Husayn

JN201822 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1705 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Jul (INA) — President Saddam Husayn has received ICO Secretary General Sharifuddin Pirzada and Nabil Ma'ruf, director of the ICO's Jerusalem and Occupied Territories Committee.

During their audience, Pirzada briefed President Saddam Husayn on ICO activities in various fields. He also reviewed the contacts he is making to implement the Kuwait Islamic summit resolutions, including the resolution urging an end to the Iraq-Iran war. President Saddam Husayn praised the ICO's efforts and stressed his firm support for them.

Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the president's secretary attended this meeting.

Continuing Reportage on Gulf War Developments

Iranian Claims Denied

JN191236 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1125 GMT 19 Jul 87

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Jul (INA) — An Iraqi military spokesman has denied Iranian claims that a battle took place between Iraqi and Iranian forces in the area around Height 402.

The military spokesman informed INA a short while ago that the Iranian enemy did not refer to the border plateau liberated by Iraqi forces in the front's II Army Corps sector the night before last, nor did it mention Heights 273, 290, and those between them.

The military spokesman explained that the Iranian announcements had ignored the arrival of Iraqi forces at the Al-Huriyah border post, the fate of the 88th Armored Division, and the thousands of dead and wounded, in addition to the heavy losses inflicted on Iranian personnel, weaponry, artillery, and missiles by the Iraqi Air Force yesterday.

In his statement to the agency, the Iraqi military spokesman added that the Iranians had suffered a terrible defeat yesterday, which can be added to those of the night before last. He declared that when an enemy brigade had attempted to approach the Iraqi forces responsible for purging the southern Majnun oil field, the bulk of the Iranian brigade's personnel was wiped out, while a number of them were captured.

Concluding his statement, the military spokesman explained: It has become customary for the Iranians to deviate from the truth in their military communiques and to tell lies. He affirmed that what is important is that Iraqi forces have seized an area that grants them full command and control of the Harran Valley and the Iranian Sumar Basin.

Communique No 2,750 Issued

JN191700 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 Jul 87

[Communique No 2,750 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 19 July 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our brave Armed Forces, which have faith in God's victory, are daily growing stronger and more confident in their ability to destroy the aggressors and to foil all their reckless suprise attacks. The following is a roundup of our brave Armed Forces' activities for last night and today:

1. At 0035 today [2035 GMT on 18 July], an enemy force attempted to approach our forward positions in the brave Al-Husayn Forces' sector at the heroic VI Army Corps front. Our brave men confronted this force with all types of weapons, and with God's assistance they annihilated most of the attacking force. The remainder of the enemy fled, pursued by the fire of our heroes. The bodies of some of the enemy soldiers were left behind, while a number of enemy scoundrels were captured. The situation was settled in favor of our victorious forces.

We take new pride in the brave Al-Husayn Forces — commanders, officers, and other ranks. It is a new victory to be added to those already achieved by our heroic VI Army Corps. Victory comes only from Almighty God.

2. Our heroic Air Force proves its overwhelming superiority over the enemy through its daily heroic activities in destroying the Khomeyniites' combat capability. Our Air Force today carried out 82 combat missions in which it destroyed many enemy vehicles, gun emplacements, and troop positions. Our aircraft then returned safely to base, God be praised.

3. In a series of successful air raids carried out by our brave helicopter gunships, the disappointed enemy sustained new losses. Many scoundrel positions were destroyed and quantities of equipment and weapons were detonated in 48 combat missions. After carrying out their duties, our aircraft returned safely to base in God's care.

4. One of our units on the VII Army Corps front spotted and attacked a formation of 20 enemy personnel. The majority were killed by mortars and machineguns, while the remainder fled. Elsewhere on this front, our units silenced a number of enemy sources of fire.

5. Our brave formation in the II Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah inflicted the following losses on the enemy: two Khomeyniites killed; two infantry positions destroyed; one shovel [preceding word in English] and two vehicles burned and destroyed; enemy engineering work paralyzed; and four Kalashnikov rifles, two 40-mm rocket launchers, and one PKS light machinegun abandoned by the enemy were captured.

6. A number of enemy personnel were killed and one large vehicle, one medium machinegun, and two positions were destroyed in the II Army Corps central sector.

7. One vehicle and two infantry positions were destroyed and seven rifles of various types, five RPG-7 launchers, and one light machinegun left behind by the enemy in the I Army Corps northern sector were captured.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 19 July 1987

Iran's Claims in North 'Lies'

JN201121 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1100 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Jul (INA) — Iraq has denied Iranian claims that battles are being waged in northern Iraq. In a statement to INA today, a military spokesman declared that no fighting took place in the northern region either last night or during the past few days. He added that all Iranian claims are baseless in part and parcel.

The Iraqi spokesman commented that Iran's claims of having penetrated 150 km [inside Iraq] show that these statements are blatant lies that exist only in the minds of Iran's riffraff rulers.

The spokesman added that these false claims seek to conceal the defeat Iran sustained last night after an entire Iranian brigade from the 5 Nasr Division was destroyed while attempting to approach an Iraqi position in the southern Majnun oil field.

Iran's Claims on Mosul Mocked

JN201157 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1134 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Jul (INA) — An Iraqi military spokesman has ridiculed Iran's claims that its ground forces and helicopters have destroyed some parts of the city of Mosul. In a statement to INA a short while ago, the Iraqi spokesman declared: It seems that those writing Iran's military communiques do not know the location of Mosul on the map. They do not even ask about its location as long as the whole thing is a lie, the spokesman added.

The Iraqi spokesman noted that four Iraqi governorates separate the city of Mosul from the eastern border, which is defended by two Iraqi corps. He declared that Mosul is hundreds of kilometers away from Iraq's eastern border.

The Iraqi spokesman described the new Iranian blunder as scandalous, adding: How did the Iranian forces reach Mosul? We leave the answer to this question to Iran's rulers, the spokesman said.

Communique No 2,751 Issued

JN201803 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Communique No 2,751 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 20 July 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The Khomeyniite scoundrels make stupid attempts against our country. In so doing they act just like someone who butts his head against a rock to weaken it. Our courageous, noble men continue to be a rocky mountain against which the heads of the hopeless ones are crushed. The following is a roundup of our brave forces' activities for last night and today:

1. In a stupid attempt, the unjust enemy at 0020 today [2020 GMT on 19 July] sent a formation of its scoundrels — estimated to be an infantry regiment — to approach our forward positions in the brave Al-Husayn Forces operational sector. This is part of the heroic VI Army Corps sector. Our faithful men immediately met this force with all types of weapons and, with God's help, annihilated most of the attackers. The remainder of the force fled. Iran's rulers have not learned their lesson. They have not cared about the lives of those whom they have forcibly sent to the mill of death created by the hands of Iraqis. As a result of this, they dispatched a formation — estimated to be an infantry brigade — at 0230 today [2230 GMT on 19 July]. Some of the enemy personnel traveled by boat. Once again our men lay in wait for them and pounded this force with merciless Iraqi fire. They also managed — praise be to God and thanks to the courage of men and that of the able leadership and commanders — to wipe out most of this brigade's personnel. The remainder of the enemy fled, leaving behind the corpses of their dead in the no-man's-land and in the marsh waters. Many enemy boats were also destroyed and sunk, settling the situation completely in favor of our victorious forces. Thanks be to you, O brave men of the heroic Al-Husayn Forces — commanders, officers, and other ranks. Praise be to God, the greatest supporter.

In other areas of the VI Army Corps sector, an enemy tubular launcher, a heavy gun, and a large vehicle were destroyed; four scoundrels were killed; and a number of ammunition dumps were detonated.

2. Using two of its defeated forces, the hopeless enemy at 0135 today [2135 GMT on 19 July] and 0715 today attempted to approach the positions liberated by our valiant soldiers of the great Badr Forces in the heroic II Army Corps central sector. With the determination and strength of men, they poured fire from various weapons at the enemy. Our troops destroyed the two enemy forces and inflicted heavy losses on their personnel. The remainder fled, pursued by the fire of our heroic artillery, and the situation was settled in favor of our victorious forces. Glory to you, O men of the great Badr Forces — commanders, officers, and other ranks. Only Almighty God grants success.

3. Hardly a day passes without our heroic Air force scoring a new splendid victory over our country's enemies. At 0835 [0435 GMT] yesterday, our bold hawks spotted two enemy F-4 aircraft while carrying out their duties over the Arab Gulf waters. They relied upon God and pursued these two aircraft and, in a dogfight, shot down one of them. It was then observed to explode in the air and fall into the sea in pieces. After carrying out their duties, our hawks returned safely to base in the homeland in God's care. Blessed be these men who perform splendid deeds daily. Praise be to God, who supports the believers.

4. Today, our daring helicopter gunships continued their raids against enemy units. In 39 combat missions, they inflicted further losses in personnel, equipment, and hardware upon them. Our helicopter gunships returned safely to base, praise be to God.

5. An enemy vehicle, a bulldozer, and 10 infantry positions were destroyed in the I Army Corps northern sector.

6. An enemy machinegun, two vehicles, and an ammunition dump were destroyed in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

7. Five ammunition dumps were detonated, a vehicle was destroyed, and a soldier was killed in the VII Army Corps sector.

8. Using long-range artillery, the tyrant Khomeyniite clique shelled residential quarters in the brave city of Basra. The enemy shelling injured one civilian and damaged a number of civilian homes and property. May our one wounded have a speedy recovery, God willing.

[Signed] The Armed Force General Command, 20 July 1987

Iranian Opposition Takes Bases

JN201427 Baghdad INA in English 1410 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Text] Paris, July 20, INA — Units of the Iranian National Liberation Army captured two Khomeyni Guard bases at Baneh in northwestern Iran Saturday in a battle lasting more than seven hours, it was reported here today.

A statement issued by the Iranian opposition organization Mojahedin-e Khalq here today said at least 30 Iranian soldiers were killed and 40 more wounded in the attack.

Three nearby bases were also attacked, one of them completely destroyed and the two others sustained damages.

Two Khomeyni Guard commanders were among those killed in the operation, the statement said.

North's Allegations on Ghorbanifar Rejected

TA211030 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 21 Jul 87 p 1

[Report by political correspondent Yosi Melman]

[Text] "Manuchehr Ghorbanifar is not an Israeli agent," Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein said last night, commenting on Colonel Oliver North's allegations in his testimony before a congressional committee.

Among other things, North based his allegations on CIA reports.

Cabinet Secretary Rubinstein affirmed that his was an authoritative announcement made on behalf of the Cabinet following a check into the matter. He noted that North's allegations were totally unfounded.

Peres, 'Abd al-Majid Discuss Peace Process

TA201535 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid are currently conferring in the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem. A little more than an hour ago, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' meeting with the guest from Cairo ended. Upon emerging from this meeting, Minister 'Abd al-Majid said that Egypt's policy has three goals: peace, stability, and development. He asserted that none must be attained by neglecting the others. He called on Israel to work together with Egypt for a comprehensive peace in the region after each country contributes toward a peace between themselves.

Mr Peres told our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami that the peace process, as well as bilateral issues, had been discussed during the meeting. The latter issues included the payment of indemnities to the families of the Ra's al-Burqah casualties and the search for the bodies of MIA's, which will be discussed in detail during Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's meeting with the guest on Wednesday.

As for the political process, Mr Peres said that Israel and Egypt do not agree on the matter of Palestinian representation at an international conference. Israel will not sit down with the PLO, and the Soviets will not conduct negotiations on our behalf, the foreign minister stressed.

Peres 'Optimistic' After Talks

TA201723 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Text] The Egyptian foreign minister says that Egyptian policy has three goals: peace, stability, and development; and not one of them can be achieved at the neglect of the others. 'Abd al-Majid made this statement after a meeting with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. Peres affirmed that he remains optimistic with regard to the matter of the peace process. He also feels that there is no unanimity with Egypt over the representation of the Palestinians at an international conference. Our correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports the foreign minister's remarks:

[Begin recording] [Peres] What has become clear to me yet again is that Egypt is determined to continue with this process, despite the problems that have arisen. This is also the impression that it has gained from Jordan and other elements. We had the opportunity to review the situation in the Middle East, to have a look at where we are all going from an economic and social standpoint, and I remain optimistic without reservations. We also discussed the issue of searches for bodies, the release of prisoners, the matter of tourism, and agricultural cooperation. There is a practical, down-to-earth tone in everything. I am very happy about this.

[Ben-'Ami] Do Israel and Egypt agree on which Palestinians will be in the Jordanian delegation?

[Peres] I would not say that there is absolute unanimity between us. What there is, what we, both of us, do agree on, is that the PLO as it is cannot come. I do not believe that the PLO will change. They believe that the PLO will change. For the time being, I am the one who is right and I believe that I will remain the one who is right. [end recording]

'Abd al-Majid Remarks

NC201902 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Text] Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir this afternoon after an earlier session with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. They discussed issues related to convening an international conference for peace in the Middle East, as well as bilateral ties.

Following his meeting with Peres, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that his visit to Israel is intended to explain Egypt's views and President Husni Mubarak's policy on the peace process. He stressed Egypt's eagerness to boost the peace process, noting that the international conference is the appropriate way for a solution, for it will enable the various parties to hold direct talks with one another.

Meanwhile, Peres said that the task in the past had been to establish peace between Egypt and Israel; the goal now is to establish peace among all the states of the region.

Voices Mubarak's Desire for Peace

TA201936 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Text] Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Majid said that President Mubarak had told him to come to Israel because he is determined to continue efforts to achieve peace between Israel and all other parties in the Middle East. At a reception given in his honor by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, 'Abd al-Majid affirmed that there is no practical alternative to an international conference that will lead to direct negotiations. He noted that although it will not be easy to bring about such a conference, there has been progress which must now be actualized.

Shamir Urges Regional Conference

TA201731 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir says he would support a regional conference on the Middle East with the participation of Egypt, Israel, Jordan, and Palestinian representatives. The prime minister stressed that he would not support an international peace conference but instead advocated direct negotiations similar to those at Camp David. He made the statements at a meeting this afternoon with visiting Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al- Majid. Sabra Chartrand reports:

Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid met with Shamir for an hour and a half in what were described as open and friendly talks. The central issue addressed by the two leaders was the Middle East peace process. According to a spokesman from the Prime Minister's Office, 'Abd al-Majid laid out Egypt's position supporting an international peace conference for Shamir, saying such a conference would strengthen ties between Israel and Egypt. Shamir told 'Abd al-Majid in return he did not believe the results of an international peace conference would justify its price, saying it had little chance of success. Instead, he told the Egyptian foreign minister he is ready, on condition, to hold talks with Jordan and Palestinian leaders within the framework of a regional conference. His only stipulation vis-a-vis Palestinian participants was that they not be members of the PLO. If Egypt is interested in such a regional conference, Shamir told 'Abd al-Majid, he was ready to open talks on the subject.

In the end, Shamir and 'Abd al-Majid decided Egypt and Israel must make a joint effort to further the peace process, including more frequent meetings between leaders from the two countries. 'Abd al-Majid gave Shamir what was described as a long message from Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, the contents of which were not revealed.

'AL HAMISHMAR Report on Talks

TA210937 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 21 Jul 87 pp 1, 2

[Report by political correspondent Dalya Shehori]

[Text] Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, regards the role of the international conference and the establishment of a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation very much the same way that Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, does. This fact emerged during a brief talk which an *'Al Hamishmar* correspondent held with Dr 'Abd al-Majid last night. It has been learned that in a message which the Egyptian foreign minister delivered to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak stated that Shamir's proposal to renew the autonomy talks is a "nonstarter;" namely, a proposal that does not enable the opening of negotiations.

Regarding the "mini-conference" or "regional conference" Shamir proposes to hold instead of an international conference, Mubarak noted that this notion could have been raised 3 years ago but is now outdated.

It has also been learned that the meeting between Dr 'Abd al-Majid and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir was, for the most part, definitely very friendly, as the Prime Minister's Office has described it, but not the entire meeting. Differences of opinion emerged between the two men toward the end of their talks, apparently with regard to Shamir's proposed alternatives to an international conference. This point was not confirmed by the Prime Minister's Office.

During a discussion which I had with him last night at a reception Shim'on Peres held for the Egyptian visitor at the King David Hotel, 'Abd al-Majid said that the most sublime goal he had come to Israel for, and one which must be pursued, is that of peace. Now that peace has been attained between Israel and Egypt, action must be taken to achieve peace between Israel and Jordan and to solve the Palestinian problem. Dr 'Abd al-Majid reiterated that the idea of an Egyptian foreign minister visiting Israel would have been preposterous 10 or 15 years ago.

Questioned on his view of the role to be played by the international conference, Dr 'Abd al-Majid replied that it must be some sort of "umbrella" that will enable the sides to conduct direct negotiations. He pointed out that this would be its only role and affirmed that the conference will not intervene in the direct negotiations between the sides involved. As for other details regarding the call for an international conference, these will have to be discussed in thorough deliberations, the Egyptian minister noted.

Asked how Egypt views the role of the PLO in negotiations within the framework of the international conference, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that Egypt believes the PLO would give legitimacy to or propose the Palestinian representatives who would take part in the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and that is all it would do. Egypt is not talking about the inclusion of PLO representatives in the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

Following the meeting between the Egyptian and Israeli foreign ministers, Shim'on Peres said that "there is no unanimity with Egypt on the question of Palestinian representation in the conference. Israel will not sit with the PLO and the Soviets will not conduct the negotiations for us." Replying to my question last night, Peres affirmed that he had not meant differences of opinion with Egypt about the very inclusion of the PLO, since they both saw eye to eye on this matter. The difference revolved around the question of whether the PLO would agree to support the process. Peres thought it would not, while Dr 'Abd al-Majid thought it would.

Peres and Dr 'Abd al-Majid held the entire meeting in private, although it had originally been planned that officials would take part in the second half of the talks.

Secretaries for both sides took notes on the discussion (the notes were taken by Dr Nimrod Novik, the foreign minister's political adviser, for Israel). The talk began with a verbal message from President Mubarak to Peres expressing his appreciation for Peres' efforts to promote peace. "We have a special place for you in our hearts and minds," Mubarak told Peres. The Egyptian minister said that he had come to Israel for two purposes: 1) to think together about what can be done to pursue the peace

process; and 2) to explain Egyptian thoughts and positions to the Israeli public.

The Egyptian foreign minister reported on his discussions with King Husayn in London about 1 week ago. He and Peres compared notes about the Soviet position with regard to an international conference. The Egyptian foreign minister said that his country has an important role in preparing the international conference in view of the fact that it maintains contacts with and has access to all the parties involved.

Peres and 'Abd al-Majid voiced their assessment that according to the timetable of the Middle East and the United States (the upcoming presidential elections), negotiations should open by the end of 1987, or the beginning of 1988 at the latest; otherwise, the entire process might be missed. Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that he takes a positive view of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' speech in which he stated that those who object to the current process (the international conference) must come up with an alternative and that a continuation of the status quo is not one such alternative.

The meeting with Prime Minister Shamir following the talks with Peres lasted for 2 hours. The first part of the discussions was attended by Shamir, 'Abd al-Majid, and Ambassadors Moshe Sason and Muhammad Basyuni (as well as two rapporteurs: for the Israeli side,notes were taken by political adviser Arye Meckel). The second part of the meeting was joined by Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein and Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, and their counterparts in the Egyptian delegation.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid spoke about expanding the circle of peace and explained Egypt's position on the international conference at great length. Shamir voiced his opposition to an international conference, saying that in order to reach direct negotiations he is "also prepared to walk down flexible corridors" such as a regional conference with the participation of Israel, Egypt, and a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation; and "if the Egyptians are interested, Israel would be prepared to resume the autonomy talks at once."

At the end of their meeting, both men agreed that talks between Israel and Egypt about the promotion of the peace process ought to be pursued at a high level and more frequently.

In the end, the prime minister did not raise the question of the invitation Dr 'Abd al-Majid had extended to Austrian President Kurt Waldheim to visit Egypt. However, the issue came up in the meeting between Peres and the Egyptian foreign minister. Shamir noted that Egyptian tourists do not come to Israel and said that trade agreements are not being adhered to. The Egyptian visitor raised the problem of Dayr al-Sultan. According to the Prime Minister's Office, Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid said that the PLO must take part in the international conference. As noted, Dr 'Abd al-Majid did not mention that in his talk with our correspondent.

'Abd al-Majid Explains Position

TA211047 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Report by Arab affairs correspondent Eldad Beck from the Daniel Hotel in Herzliyya — live]

[Text] The Egyptian foreign minister's chief mission in Israel, as he has stated explicitly, was to garner support for the idea of an international conference and to explain to the Israelis the need and urgency of holding one. Twenty-four hours after his meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, the Egyptian minister explained that the ideas for direct negotiations between Israel and Jordan inaccordance with the Camp David model, the resumption of the autonomy talks, or a regional minisummit are irrelevant, or, as he put it in English, they are a nonstarter [last word in English]. In all honesty, said 'Abd al-Majid, we see no chance for direct Jordanian-Israeli negotiations outside an international forum; this is simply impossible.

As for the nature of the conference, 'Abd Al-Majid affirmed that Egypt's position is clear: The conference will serve as an umbrella or aegis for direct negotiations between the parties involved. The superpowers will not have the right to interfere in the talks unless they are requested to mediate should the parties reach an impasse. The conference will not have the right to force a solution on the sides involved or to veto agreements that have been reached.

As for the Palestinian representation, only the Palestinians will determine who will represent them. The PLO is wrong, says 'Abd al-Majid, in refusing to accept the positive points in UN Security Council Resolution 242.

'Abd al-Majid, who recently conferred with King Husayn, maintains that the monarch is determined that contacts with Israelis and Palestinians should continue to promote the peace process.

This, then, is a summation of the positions presented by the Egyptian minister during his talks in Israel. 'Abd al-Majid held a meeting this morning with Minister 'Ezer Weizman, and the two exchanged views on efforts to promote peace. Minister Weizman invited him for a private visit to Israel, or, as he put it, to get to know Tel Aviv. He asked the Egyptian foreign minister to convey his best wishes to President Mubarak, Defense Minister Abu Ghazalah, and his old friends Jamal Hasan 'Ali and Mustafa Khalil. At the end of their meeting, the two even exchanged a few sentences in Arab.

At the end of the meeting, this is what Minister Weizman had to say:

[Begin Weizman recording] In the 6 years since the last visit to Israel by an Egyptian minister, the process has stalled somewhat, and any halt in such a process is usually undesirable. This, of course, sheds more importance upon his visit to Israel. We discussed precisely this: both the significance of his visit and ways to move things forward in anticipation of further talks with the Arab world, for everyone now realizes that things will not work out without an international conference. [end recording]

MA'ARIV: U.S. Seen as 'Inflating' Tourist Affair

TA201058 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
20 Jul 87 p A10

[Commentary by Moshe Zaq: "The Jarring Ultimatum"]

[Text] They are not American tourists. They try to infiltrate into Israel as illegal immigrants. Not only Black Hebrews, but American Arabs also try to do this.

Israel encourages U.S. Jews to emigrate to Israel, but they prefer to come here as tourists. On the other hand, the Arabs from America come here to stay. Being American tourists, they are not required to present entry visas, but many of them do not return to the United States, opting for life under "the oppressive Israeli regime" over the joys of American freedom. They emigrated to America when their villages were under Jordanian rule, and now that they are ruled by Israel they are beginning to trickle back. Hundreds of their children illegally enroll in schools maintained by Israel, which treats them compassionately despite the fact that they and their families came here as tourists but are actually living in Israel illegally.

Israel does not discriminate between one tourist and another; they are all equal before the law. However, when it comes to immigration, preferences lean toward **Jewish** immigrants. That is the essence of the Law of Return; the goal of the Jewish State is to gather the people of Israel in its homeland.

No one leveled accusations at the U.S. immigration authorities who barred a 24-year-old youth from Kibbutz Zor'a from entering the United States as a tourist because they suspected that he might stay behind illegally. No one complained about the "discrimination," so to speak, which led to the youth's tragic death when he tried to swim across the Canadian-U.S. border.

The very fact that American tourists can come to Israel without first applying for entry visas and without Israel requesting reciprocity from the United States illustrates the special treatment accorded to American citizens by the Israeli authorities.

The U.S. authorities are familiar with the case of Ziyad Abu-'Ayn Tarifi, the Arab terrorist who sought refuge in the United States after having perpetrated a terrorist attack in a Tiberias market. They know about him because they extradited him to Israel. He did not flee to the United States on a whim; he had somebody to turn to. Should this "somebody" turn up at Ben-Gurion as a U.S. tourist, would we have the right to interrogate him, or would we be called upon to ignore his true identity and merely consider his passport?

True, the U.S. Government must uphold the honor of the U.S. "green passport;" there is no doubt about that.

However, when the U.S. Administration encountered a more serious problem with Saudi Arabia, which did not let American Jews enter its territory, Washington proceeded to settle the matter quietly, without any fanfare and without a jarring ultimatum. On the other hand, in Israel's case — where it is only a matter of verification controls and not a ban — the U.S. pressure on Israel has been publicly dramatized.

The State Department spokesman hastened to announce that the Israeli charge d'affaires had been summoned to the State Department in Washington to be notified of the U.S. protest against the violation of the rights of U.S citizens. Within 48 hours a sensational report was issued about an American ultimatum to Israel, according to which the latter must forgo the questioning of American Arabs arriving at Ben-Gurion Airport or be included on the list of countries the United States recommends against visiting. Following this ultimatum, we were told that yesterday the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem summoned an urgent consultation of all the Israeli elements involved in order to solve the problem. There was a big fuss, but no one stopped for a minute to ask: Is this the acceptable norm of behavior between friendly countries? Can the complaint of U.S. citizens not be looked into without setting off sparks? Who is actually interested in making a mountain out of a molehill and creating an atmosphere of crisis between Jerusalem and Washington?

About 2 months ago, when terrorist attacks in Judaea and Samaria increased, U.S. officials hastened to issue a statement dissociating the United States from Israel's punitive policies. Despite the fact that what was involved was the deportation of **a few individuals**, those officials did not contain themselves or refrain from making public the advice they gave in diplomatic talks.

These days, when the United States is weighing the risks of sending warships to the Persian Gulf and, by so doing, actually saving Iraq from being defeated in a war it started, Iraq has been ruthlessly expelling thousands of Kurds from the Iranian border area and wiping out 100 Kurdish villages. So far there has been no reaction whatsoever from Washington, because Iraq is an ally of Jordan and Egypt who have a place in America's heart. The United States is sensitive about human rights, but it is more attentive to what it regards as a strategic interest.

The misunderstanding about the entry into Israel of Arabs bearing U.S. passports is certainly marginal, and it could have been overcome without the hoopla of the jarring ultimatum. The fact that somebody took care to inflate it and turn it into an obstacle in Jerusalem-Washington relations shows that something has broken down or perhaps serves as a warning of imminent breakdowns which must be seen to as soon as possible.

Occasional misunderstandings occur between friendly countries as well. Minor misunderstandings become big crises only when they herald a change in the relationship. The report that the former Israeli chief of staff, who was an official visitor in Washington on more than one occasion, is no longer a welcome guest in the United States might exacerbate this danger.

If only the exaggerated and insulting reports about the ultimatum to Israel were simply the result of a bureaucratic breakdown.

Ministry 'Demanding' More Romanian Purchases

TA201440 Tel Aviv Educational Television
in Hebrew 1400 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Text] The Ministry of Industry and Trade is demanding that Romania increase its purchases of produce from Israel in return

for the export of Romanian cars to us. The director general of the ministry has commented that the Romanians have recently decreased purchases from us, while they should instead be increased in preparation for a flood of Romanian cars.

Defense Officials Skeptical of New Settlement

TA210759 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 21 Jul 87 pp 1, 9

[Report by Joel Greenberg]

[Excerpt] Defence officials were sceptical yesterday of promises by Housing Minister David Levi that his ministry would start work this week at the planned West Bank settlement of Avne Hefez, in coordination with the Defence Ministry.

A spokeswomen for the Judaea and Samaria Civil Administration, which must approve the settlement plans, said "nothing had moved" since Levi's declaration. A Defence Ministry spokesman said he knew of no agreements with Levi to speed up construction of the settlement. When the necessary plans are submitted and approved, work can proceed in coordination with the ministry, he said. On Sunday Levi said he had discussed the situation at Avne Hefez with Defence Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. [passage omitted]

Nisim Says No Additional Funds for Settlements

TA211011 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 21 Jul 87 p 1

[Report by political correspondent Yosi Melman]

[Excerpt] Finance Minister Moshe Nisim does not plan to exceed the budget and allocate additional funds for the establishment of new settlements. He made this plain in a meeting last night with a senior Labor Party figure.

Nisim said that at a time when he objects to going ahead with the development of the Lavi for lack of funds, he could not afford to allocate money beyond what has been agreed upon for settlements in Judaea and Samaria. [passage omitted]

Sharon Says Use of Bulldozer in Avne Hefez 'Legal'

TA201406 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Text] Minister Ari'el Sharon said that yesterday's use of a bulldozer in Avne Hefez was absolutely legal and was intended to demonstrate ownership of that property. Minister Sharon emphasized that the action had been brought to the knowledge of the Civilian Administration in Samaria as early as last week. In a conversation with our correspondent Hayim Hecht, Sharon rejected the criticism leveled at him by Ministers Rabin and Navon, saying that they ought to study the book of laws and the history of the settlement actions in Eretz Yisra'el and learn them well.

Moshe Negbi, our commentator on legal affairs, points out that the authority for taking action in the territories is solely that of the defense establishment. International law grants sovereignty over the territories to the IDF only, and the minister of housing and minister of industry and trade have no legal status there. Accordingly, these ministers and their ministries may act beyond the Green Line only with the approval of the defense establishment and on its behalf.

Weekly on Algerian Effort to Free French Hostages

LD181806 Kuwait KUNA in English 1643 GMT 18 Jul 87

[Text] Beirut, July 18 (KUNA) — An Algerian ranking Army officer has recently made a secret visit to Beirut where he negotiated with the abductors of French hostages, a Lebanese weekly magazine reported Saturday.

Al-Shira' weekly, which broke the U.S. arms-to-Iran scandal, did not say if the Algerian mediator met any success in his effort to secure the release of five French hostages kidnapped in Lebanon by pro-Iranian groups.

The magazine, which identified the Algerian officer as Al-Akmal Ayyat, said his mission was part of a Franco-Algerian deal under which Paris would return the favor by tightening the noose on the French-based Algerian opposition groups.

It did not say when Ayyat made the visit.

Soviet Envoy Meets With Al-Huss, Makes Statement

NC211132 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Text] After meeting with acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss today, Soviet Ambassador Vasiliy Kolotusha said: The meeting was dedicated to studying regional and Middle East issues, the Gulf war, and the international peace conference. He noted that some efforts are being made to convene the international peace conference, especially since the Polyakov-Richard Murphy meeting.

Referring to Syrian-U.S. relations, Kolotusha noted that the word rapprochement cannot be used to describe the real purpose for Walters' visit to Damascus, as it was simply an attempt to hold a Syrian-U.S. dialogue. Kolotusha also stated that the assassination of Prime Minister Karami had adversely affected the Lebanese situation.

Al-Rasi Views Security Questions, Syrian Role

PM210909 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 17 Jul 87 pp 14, 15

[Interview with Interior Minister Dr 'Abdallah al-Rasi by William Dahir in Ihdin, Lebanon; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Introductory passage omitted] *Al-Hawadith*: Your Excellency, will you join the Liberation and Unification Front which is to be announced in the near future? And do you expect other Christian figures to join it?

Al-Rasi: The name of the front, which will be announced in the near future, God willing, reveals its objectives. Therefore, can I do anything else but join it, since I believe that Lebanon can only be salvaged through the unity of its people and the liberation of its soil from the Israeli enemy? Certainly numerous Christian figures will join this front, or else it will be meaningless. [passage omitted]

Al-Hawadith: Are we to understand that Lebanese-Syrian talks may not resume in the near future and that a political freeze will characterize this stage?

Al-Rasi: These talks will not resume until the issue of the crime committed against Prime Minister Karami is settled or, at least, until the regime embarks on political action in that direction.

Al-Hawadith: In view of the current situation and facts available to you, how would you describe the relationship between Presidents Amin al-Jumayyil and Hafiz al-Asad, and do you expect the freeze in relations between the Ba'bda and Al-Muhajirin palaces to be broken in the near future?

Al-Rasi: The first part of the question should be addressed to the two presidents. As for breaking the freeze, I have already answered when I said: It depends on action taken by President al-Jumayyil. [passage omitted]

Al-Hawadith: There is a new subject; namely, the U.S. opening up to Syria. What, in your opinion, are the effects of this opening up on the situation in Lebanon?

Al-Rasi: The question that is now raised is: Has the United States decided to change its previous policy of total alignment with Israel? Has the U.S. Administration turned toward principles of justice and fairness in order to find solutions that will produce comprehensive peace in the Middle East region?

If this is the case, I would then expect good results from such an opening up. However, the United States has only taken this step because it knows Syria holds positions that cannot be ignored. Syria has made and is still making sacrifices to restore and confirm the Arab right.

Al-Hawadith: In your capacity as interior minister, how do you assess the security situation in West Beirut?

Al-Rasi: This part of Beirut enjoys an excellent security situation despite all the conspiratorial attempts to undermine stability. I hope the media will ask the average citizen about the situation; it is enough that he no longer pays protection money (al-nahawwat) and that his dignity has been preserved. Suffice it to say that all government and official establishments are now under the legitimate authority, which no one dares to harm or control.

Al-Hawadith: Speaking of security, there is an important issue here; namely, the issue of foreign hostages in Lebanon. According to information available to you, what, in your opinion, are the chances of the hostages' being released, and do you expect an imminent solution to this question?

Al-Rasi: The issue of foreign hostages is a regional and world issue. It may not be resolved before the U.S. presidential election.

Al-Hawadith: What, in your opinion, are the effects, either negative or positive, of the Gulf war on the situation in Lebanon?

Al-Rasi: When this war ceases, the situation in Lebanon and the region as a whole will improve. Its continuation reflects

negatively on us and on the region. Therefore, there is a need for all officials in the Arab states to work and to strive toward stopping this dangerous hemorrhage.

Minister Al-Hashim on Syrian-U.S. 'Rapprochement'

NC201820 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1615 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Excerpts] Posts and Telecommunications Minister Joseph al-Hashim has stated that the situation in the Gulf has reached the point of no return. He said that a U.S. retreat from providing military support to oil tankers would strike a political blow to the United States in the region, adding: If, militarily, a negative situation is created, I believe that a military clash, perhaps involving France itself, will follow.

Al-Hashim asserted that in view of the current contacts being made with regard to various regional and international conditions, particularly those contacts between the United States and Syria and between Iraq and Syria, the atmosphere is not yet conducive to resolving the Lebanese situation. We are waiting to see the extent of a possible U.S.-Syrian or Arab-Syrian understanding. Such rapprochements would ensure new Arab and international alliances, which could contribute to handling the Lebanese situation. Al-Hashim also declared that a partition of Lebanon was out of the question. [passage omitted]

Asked about the Lebanese climate following the more than 40 days since Karami's death, Al-Hashim replied: There is talk about the unification and liberation front. We support any front that will lead to unification and liberation, provided that it represents all the Lebanese, that unficiation will not mean the pitting of one party against another, and that liberation will constitute the freeing of our will and land from foreign pressures or a foreign presence.

Syrians Prevent Hizballah Official's Beirut Entry

NC201736 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1615 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Text] The *Akhbar al-Yawm* news agency reports that the Syrian forces have prevented Hizballah official Al-Hajj Husayn 'Ubayd from reaching Beirut. 'Ubayd left Ba'labakk for Beirut 2 days ago.

Attack on Syrian Post in Tripoli Kills 1, Wounds 3

NC210756 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0715 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Text] According to reports received by Voice of Lebanon, one Syrian soldier was killed and three others wounded when gunmen attacked a Syrian position in Tripoli at 2100 yesterday. Syrian forces immediately cordoned off the area. An intelligence unit led by Major Muhammad Khalluf then began investigations at the scene of the incident and nearby areas.

Syrian Soldier Killed in West Beirut Shoot-out

NC211359 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Text] According to a security report from West Beirut, gunmen riding in a black Mercedes 190 opened fire at a checkpoint manned by personnel of the Syrian occupation forces near Shatila circle. A Syrian soldier was killed during the shoot-out.

Clashes East of Sidon Grow 'More Violent'

NC210634 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0515 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Text] Rocket and machinegun fire is continuing along the traditional combat lines east of Sidon, especially at the western approach to the town of Maghdushah, the Maria Restaurant, the 'Ayn al-Hulwah Hills, and Jabal al-Halib. We were informed this morning that the exchange of fire became more violent at dawn today.

Amal sources have stated that an Amal fighter was killed on the combat lines east of Sidon during clashes with Palestinians yesterday.

In a statement issued in Tunis, the PLO has accused the Amal Movement of seeking to expand the security zone in south Lebanon by evicting Palestinians from the camps in Sidon and Tyre.

According to a security report from Tyre, the bodies of citizens Husayn Bajih 'Abadi and Hasan Mar'i, riddled with bullets, were moved to the Tyre government hospital last night. The circumstances surrounding their deaths have not yet been determined.

Damascus Radio on Walters Visit, Ties With U.S.

JN201307 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1130 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] Following the visit of U.S. presidential envoy Vernon Walters to Damascus, certain American officials made statements about U.S.-Syrian relations. Some of these statements spoke about an improvement in the attitude of certain circles in the U.S. Administration on the issue of relations with Syria, and others maintained the old negative attitude toward Syria. During this flow of official statements, U.S. and Western media were competing with each other in the publication of reports which were leaked by circles concerned with tackling the propaganda and psychological aspect of U.S.-Syrian relations. These reports contained incidents that actually took place and others that did not. The reports also cited statements attributed to both Syrian and U.S. sources. There might have been some truth in these reports, but it is obvious that they were generally intended to form an impression — in the United States and elsewhere — compatible with what the U.S. Administration wanted, although the facts indicated otherwise.

International relations are not based on press reports and leaked information, or even on statements issued by certain officials who are opposed to contacts to improve or even disrupt ties between two governments. As everyone knows, relations between Syria and the United States are not at their best. In fact, they lack many of the elements of good, normal relations between two states that are not at war with one another. The primary responsibility for this state of relations rests with the U.S. Administration, which, until a few months ago, was waging a violent anti-Syrian campaign. This campaign was unfair in its motives and unrealistic in its expectations. The United States also pressured its Western allies to take part in this campaign. The U.S. Administration was not satisfied with the campaign. It followed it with certain hostile measures against Syria and influenced its allies to take part in the adoption of all kinds of measures in order to pressure Syria and influence its policy and stands. Syria's stand vis-a-vis these hostile measures and campaigns was solid. It stemmed from pride in itself, adherence to independence, abidance to principles, defense of rights, and rejection of foreign dictates and willpower. In this campaign, Syria succeeded in remaining steadfast, safeguarding its national willpower and firmly adhering to its rights and principles.

However, Syrian steadfastness notwithstanding, Syria was never afraid of entering into a dialogue with others. It was never terrified of confronting the logic of others with its own logic, or hesitant about discussing anything that is useful to the two sides, to the area, and to international relations.

When U.S. President Reagan wrote to President Hafiz al-Asad and sent his special envoy Vernon Walters to Syria, Syria had no objection to listening to what the U.S. side had to say and to let the U.S. side hear Syria's views. Of course, such an exchange of views does not mean that one side was convinced by the views of the other side, or that the differences that existed had been eliminated. But it means that the side that had broken off contacts and exerted pressure had returned to initiate a dialogue. That in itself is positive. In our age, it is possible for two governments to differ, but it is strange to resort to outmoded and unsuccessful methods in expressing such differences or in trying to persuade the other side.

There are unnatural elements in Syrian-U.S. relations. If there is a desire to normalize relations, it is necessary for the side that has created these unnatural elements to take the initiative and remove them, gradually or all at once.

Interior Minister Ghabbash Leaves for Moscow

JN211308 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1115 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Text] Moscow — Interior Minister Muhammad Ghabbash left for the Soviet Union this morning heading a delegation comprising senior officers of the Ministry of Interior in reply to an invitation extended to him from the Soviet minister of internal affairs. The visit will last several days, during which Ghabbash will hold talks with Soviet officials on the existing ties of friendship and cooperation between the Ministries of Interior in both friendly states and on issues of common interest.

Najibullah Congratulates Nicaraguan President

LD210629 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0430 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Text] Kabul, July 20, *Bakhtar* — Congratulatory messages sent by Najib, general secretary of the PDPA CC, and Haji Mohammad Chamkani, acting president of Revolutionary Council of the DRA, to Managua, addressed to Daniel Ortega, president of Nicaragua.

The messages on behalf of the Central Committee of the PDPA, the Revolutionary Council and people of the DRA has congratulated the 8th anniversary of the victory of popular revolution of Nicaragua to the leaders and members of Sandinist National Liberation Front, FSLN, and the heroic people of that country.

The messages also expressed confidence that the existing friendly relations between the two countries based on the principle of revolutionary solidarity will be further expanded and enriched in the interest of the people of the two countries and joint struggle for ensuring international peace and security.

Wakil, Politburo member of the PDPA CC and minister of foreign affairs of the DRA, has also sent a similar message on the occasion to Miguel d'Escoto, foreign minister of Nicaragua.

BAKHTAR Cites Statistics on Soviet Assistance

LD200557 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0421 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Text] Kabul, July 18, *Bakhtar* — In the past three months the Soviet Union has rendered assistance in the form of primary goods in the amount of thirty seven million rubles for repatriates, says a representative of the State Committee of Planning to a *Bakhtar* reporter.

According to January agreement held between the Afghan-Soviet Governments, the Soviet Union will deliver to the Afghan side consumer goods equivalent to 150 million rubles during the years 1986 to 1987.

Since the April Revolution of 1978, the Soviet Union has assisted the DRA to an amount of 1.1 billion dollars in the form of project loans, consumer goods and gratis aid. The total aid of the Soviet Union to Afghanistan amounts to three billion before and after the revolution.

Presently, every aspect of economic project in the country is an indication of economic and technical assistance of the Soviet Union. The share of the Soviet Union is envisaged to be 790 million dollars in the socio-economic development plan of 1986 to 1991. The construction of a number of development projects will be completed by using this assistance. The Soviet Union has taken so far under construction about two hundred projects, over 120 of which have already been completed and exploited.

It should be pointed out that over 15 percent of the industrial products of the state sector will be produced by production enterprises, which will be built under the Soviet assistance and has begun functioning. Border trade has begun in the recent years between the two countries as a means of further consolidation of commercial relations.

The seventh session of the permanent Commission of Afghan-Soviet Economic Cooperation is to be held in the near future. The Soviet assistance to the DRA will be enhanced as a result of the session.

BAKHTAR Carries 'Text' of Draft Constitution

LD171022 Kabul BAKHTAR in Pashto
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["Draft of the Constitution" — *Bakhtar* headline]

[Text] Kabul, July 15, *Bakhtar* — The following is the text of the draft of the Constitution of the DRA, which is being published in the mass media today in an effort to seek public sclicitation.

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In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful:

Our beloved homeland, Afghanistan, has a proud history replete with the heroic struggle of our brave people for freedom, independence, national sovereignty, democracy, and social progress.

The revolutionary and progressive changes that have taken place in our country in the course of recent years have provided favorable conditions for achieving our high objectives, the blossoming of the homeland, and the prosperity of our people.

Based on these principles and in order to:

— Consolidate independence and national sovereignty and defend the territorial integrity of the country;
— Achieve and strengthen reconciliation and national unity, keeping in mind the objective realities, traditions, and customs of the people;
— Ensure social justice and equality;
— Develop the national economy and the living standards of the people;
— Raise the role and authority of our beloved homeland, Afghanistan, in the international arena;

We, the people of Afghanistan, perceiving the historic changes that are taking place both in the country and in the contemporary world, pursuing the tenets of the sacred religion of Islam, preserving and enriching the heritage of the constitutionalist movement in Afghanistan, and paying respect to the United Nations Charter and to the universal declaration on human rights, endorse this Constitution as the most important national document.

Chapter I [subhead]

Foundations of the State Political System

Article 1: The Democratic Republic of Afghanistan (DRA) is an independent, unitary, and indivisible state, having sovereignty over its territory as a whole. (Footnote 1) (It is possible that after ascertaining public opinion, the DRA may be called the Republic of Afghanistan.)

The DRA is a nonaligned country, which does not join military blocs and which does not allow the establishment of foreign military bases on its territory.

Article 2: The sacred religion of Islam is the religion of Afghanistan.

Article 3: In the DRA, state power belongs to the people. People exercise state power through their deputies in the National Assembly and the local councils, which are to be elected in accordance with the provisions of the law. Members of the National Assembly and deputies of the local councils are responsible to their electors and are duty-bound to report to them.

Article 4: In the DRA, political parties are permitted to be formed provided that the platform, charter, and activity of the party are not opposed to the values embodied in this Constitution and in the laws of the DRA.

A party formed in accordance with the provisions of the law cannot be dissolved without legal cause.

The People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) is the organizer and guardian of the implementation of the national reconciliation policy in Afghanistan and functions in accordance with the Constitution and laws of the DRA. The PDPA will struggle for justice and social progress.

Article 5: As the most extensive sociopolitical organization, the National Front of the DRA unites the political parties, social organizations, and individual members among its ranks for their active participation in political, state, and social spheres on the basis of a common program.

Article 6: Social organizations are permitted to be formed in the DRA.

The state assists in upgrading the roles of trade unions, peasant cooperatives, and youth and women's organizations, as well as other social organizations, throughout the country's entire political, economic, social, and cultural life. It ensures that there will be cooperation and mutual relations between them and state organs.

Article 7: The insignia of the DRA consists of a rising sun, an altar, and a pulpit on a green background. There is an open book in the center, enclosed in two sheaves of wheat, and a tricolor ribbon in black, red, and green.

Article 8: The state flag of the DRA is tricolor with black, red, and green stripes divided horizontally into three equal parts. The insignia of the DRA will be located in the upper quarter of the flag closest to the mast. The length of the flag is double its width.

Article 9: The capital of the DRA is the city of Kabul.

Article 10: The national anthem of the DRA is to be approved by the National Assembly.

Article 11: The defense of our independence, national sovereignty, and territorial integrity is the fundamental duty of both the state and the people. It is the duty of the Armed Forces of the DRA to defend the homeland against its enemies and constantly to upgrade its combat preparedness. The state ensures the security and defense capability of the country and equips the Armed Forces.

Chapter II [subhead]

Foundations of the State Socioeconomic System

Article 12: The DRA is a multinational country. The state will follow the policy of comprehensive growth in understanding, friendship, and cooperation among all nationalities, clans, and tribes of the country to ensure political, economic, social, and cultural equality, as well as the rapid growth and development of regions that are socially and economically backward.

The state will gradually provide for the creation of administrative units based on national characteristics.

Article 13: The state will adopt the measures necessary to ensure the growth of the culture, language, and literature of the people of Afghanistan and will preserve and develop the valuable and worthy cultural, traditional, linguistic, literary, and folkloric legacies of all nationalities, clans, and tribes.

Article 14: In the DRA, men and women have equal rights in all economic, political, social, and cultural spheres.

Article 15: In the DRA, the family constitutes the basic unit of society.

The state will adopt the measures necessary to ensure the health of mothers and children, as well as the upbringing of children.

Article 16: The state takes permanent care of the young generation, provides opportunities for them to learn professions, and takes steps to ensure the working conditions necessary for them, as well as providing for their moral and physical upbringing.

Article 17: The state will expand construction in order to provide state and cooperative housing and to help in the construction of private housing.

Article 18: The state will implement the economic policy, which is aimed at the mobilization and utilization of the country's resources in order to remove backwardness, raise the living standards of people, and develop the socioeconomic structure of society. To this end, the state will formulate and put into practice socioeconomic development plans.

Article 19: In the DRA, there exists state, cooperative, mixed, private, personal, and trust property, as well as the property of social organizations.

The state will protect and defend all forms of legal property.

Article 20: Underground resources, forests, and other natural wealth; energy resources; historic relics; banks and insurance institutions; means of communications and radio and television establishments; large dams; ports; the primary means of production in heavy industry; transportation routes and air transportation are among the property of the state.

The state will strengthen and develop the state sector of the economy.

Article 21: The cooperative property consists of the means of production and other properties necessary for implementing the functions provided for in the charter of cooperatives.

The state will assist in the expansion and consolidation of productive, consumer, and other forms of cooperatives.

Article 22: The state encourages and protects the activities of individual craftsmen and their voluntary participation in trade unions and cooperatives. The state renders comprehensive assistance in upgrading their professional skills and ensuring their supplies of raw materials and the sales of their products.

Article 23: The state guarantees the landownership rights of peasants and other landowners in accordance with the law.

The state, with the active and voluntary participation of the toiling peasants and other landowners, will adopt the measures necessary for the implementation of democratic changes in agriculture, keeping in mind the peasants' and landowners' interests.

The state encourages the establishment of large agricultural and mechanized state, mixed, and private farms. It also helps in the reclamation of virgin lands.

Article 24: In the DRA, the opportunities for nomads and livestock-breeders to use pastures will be guaranteed by law.

The state will render assistance in the creation of the proper conditions for the growth of animal husbandry; the sale of products; and the improvement of the economic, social, and living standards of livestock-breeders.

Article 25: The state will guarantee the security of private investment for the growth of the national economy and will protect and encourage the participation of national capital holders in the development of industrial, commercial, construction, transportation, agricultural, and service spheres in accordance with the law.

The state expands comprehensive and beneficial relations with private entrepreneurs and protects the private sector vis-a-vis the competition with foreign capital. The state takes into account the interests of the private sector in detailing financial, credit, customs, and pricing policies. The state encourages the activity of the Economic Consultative Council.

Article 26: In the DRA, domestic and foreign trade is directed and regulated by the state, in consideration of the people's interests.

To this end, the state encourages the activity of national capital holders in expanding the export and import of goods and in developing wholesale and retail trade. It also undertakes the setting and controlling of prices.

The state encourages raising production and the quality of export goods, and it protects them vis-a-vis the competition of foreign capital and imperialist monopolies.

Article 27: For the growth of the national economy, the state permits foreign investment in the DRA and regulates it in accordance with the law.

Article 28: In the DRA, foreign citizens will not have the right to own immovable property.

Subject to the approval of the government, immovable property may be sold on a reciprocal basis to diplomatic missions and foreign states, as well as to those international organizations of which the DRA is a member.

Article 29: The use of private and personal property to harm the public interest is not permitted.

The hereditary right to private and personal property will be guaranteed by law and the provisions of Islamic Shari'ah.

Article 30: Exportation is allowed only for the purpose of securing the public interest and in return for prior and equitable compensation in accordance with the law.

The confiscation of property is not permitted without the sanction of the law and the decision of a competent court.

Article 31: In the DRA, the criteria, rates, and types of taxes and duties are to be determined by law on the basis of the principles of social justice.

Article 32: The state will adopt and implement measures necessary to protect nature and natural wealth, to reasonably utilize natural resources, to improve the environment, to prevent water and air pollution, and to ensure the survival of animals and plants.

Chapter III [subhead]

Citizenship, Rights, Basic Freedoms, and Duties of Citizens

Article 33: Citizenship in the DRA is equal and uniform to all citizens.

The attainment and cancellation of citizenship and other matters pertaining to it will be regulated by law.

Article 34: No citizen of the DRA is to be exiled inside or outside the country.

Article 35: No citizen of the DRA is to be extradited to a foreign state.

Article 36: The citizens of the DRA living abroad enjoy the protection of the state. The state defends their rights and legal interests, strengthens the relations of Afghans living abroad with the country, and assists their return to the homeland.

Article 37: The DRA guarantees, according to the law, the rights and freedoms of foreign citizens and individuals residing in Afghanistan without citizenship. They are bound to observe the laws of the DRA.

Article 38: All citizens of the DRA have equal rights and duties before the law, irrespective of their national, racial, linguistic, tribal, educational, or social status, their sex, religion, creed, occupation, kinship, wealth, or place of residence.

The granting of any illegal privilege or any discrimination against the rights and duties of citizens is not permitted, and anyone found guilty of such acts will be punished according to the law.

Article 39: Life is the natural right of every human being. No one is to be deprived of this right unless it is in accordance with the law.

Article 40: In the DRA, freedom of religious rites is guaranteed to all Muslims.

Followers of other religions are fully entitled to perform their religious rites provided that they do not disturb public peace and order.

No citizen has the right to use religion for antinational or antipeople propaganda purposes, for the creation of enmity, or for the perpetration of deeds contrary to the interests of the DRA.

Article 41: Liberty is the natural right of human beings. This right is unlimited unless it harms the freedom of others or public interests as defined by law.

Liberty and human dignity are inviolable and the state respects and protects them. Guiltlessness is innate and the accused is considered innocent unless found guilty by a final verdict of a court of law.

-- No act is considered a crime, except as prescribed by law.
-- No one shall be accused of crime unless in accordance with the provision of the law.
-- No one can be arrested or detained, except in accordance with the law.
-- No one can be punished except under the provisions of the law in force prior to the commission of the act with which the accused is charged. The guilty shall be punished in accordance with the law in proportion to the crime committed.
-- Crime is a personal deed; no other person shall be punished for its commission.
-- The accused has the right to defend himself personally or through an advocate.

Article 42: In the DRA, punishment incompatible with human dignity, as well as torture and harassment, are prohibited.

Obtaining a confession, evidence or statement from the accused or from any other person by compulsion or threats is not permissible.

A public servant who tortures the accused or any other person in order to obtain a statement, evidence, or confession, or who issues orders for such torture shall be punished in accordance with the law.

Commission of unlawful deeds on the orders of superior authorities shall not bear acquittal of the person accused thereof.

Article 43: Indebtedness of a person cannot cause the deprivation of one's liberty.

The ways and means of recovering debts shall be regulated by the law.

Article 44: In the DRA, the inviolability of residence is guaranteed. No one, including the state representative, can enter or search a residence without the permission of the resident and except in the circumstances and procedures specified by the law.

Article 45: In the DRA, secrecy of correspondence, telephone conversations, telegrams, and other kinds of communication is guaranteed.

No one, including a state representative, can intercept telephone calls, telegraphic communications, and other types of communication, except as provided for under the law.

Article 46: Citizens of the DRA who suffer unlawful damage by state organs, social organizations, or responsible officials while in the performance of their duties shall be entitled to compensation. The conditions and procedures of compensation shall be regulated by law.

Article 47: Citizens of the DRA are entitled to take part in the sociopolitical life and administration of the country, directly or through their representatives.

Article 48: Citizens of the DRA have the right to vote or to be elected. Conditions and procedures for exercising this right shall be regulated by law.

Article 49: Citizens of the DRA enjoy the right to freedom of thought and expression. Citizens of the DRA can exercise this right openly, verbally or in writing, in accordance with the provisions of the law.

Article 50: Citizens of the DRA have the right to peaceful assembly and demonstration in accordance with the provisions of the law. The state shall place at their disposal buildings, streets, and areas for holding assemblies, meetings, marches, and demonstrations, provided that it does not disturb public security and decency [hosayana].

Article 51: Citizens of the DRA enjoy the right to petition, to criticize, and to make suggestions.

State organs, social organizations, and responsible officials are bound to consider all petitions, criticisms, and proposals within the time prescribed by the law and to take the necessary actions with regard to them. Persecution for criticism is forbidden.

Article 52: Citizens of the DRA enjoy the right to work with pay.

Through the enactment and application of just and progressive laws on labor, the state creates the necessary conditions for citizens to exercise this right.

Article 53: The imposition of forced labor is forbidden.

The performance of forced labor in times of natural calamity and other states of emergency that threaten public life and order are to be excluded from this.

Article 54: On the basis of specialization and keeping in mind the needs of society, citizens of the DRA have the right to choose their occupations and to be admitted to state employment.

Article 55: Citizens of the DRA will have the right to rest.

The state defines the work time and the periodical holidays with pay, as well as the procedure for work during holidays, festivals, and the 'Id's [Muslim feast days]. It provides conditions for rest, the growth of cultural and artistic establishments, and physical training, sports, and healthy recreation.

Article 56: Citizens of the DRA will have the right to education free of charge.

The state will adopt the measures necessary for the eradication of illiteracy, the generalization of balanced education and education in the mother tongue, the ensurance of compulsory elementary education, the gradual expansion of general technical and vocational education, and the growth of higher education for the training of national cadres.

Article 57: Citizens of the DRA have the right to health and social security.

The state will adopt the necessary measures through the expansion of comprehensive, balanced, and national medical services; the expansion of hospitals and health centers; the training of doctors and medical personnel; the prevention of epidemic diseases; the expansion of free health services; the arrangement and encouragement of private medical services; and the improvement of material welfare for the elderly, those handicapped in war and work, and the families of martyrs.

Article 58: Citizens of the DRA enjoy the right to technical, and artistic activities.

The state ensures the systematic progress of science and the training of scientific cadres. It preserves the rights of authors and inventors and encourages and protects scientific research in all spheres. It generalizes the effective use of the outcome of scientific research.

Article 59: Citizens of the DRA have the right to travel and to choose freely where to settle and reside in the country.

The state is authorized to ban travel, settlement, and residence in some areas of the country for the purposes of preserving security and public order, preventing epidemic diseases, and preserving the rights and liberties of other people.

Article 60: Citizens of the DRA enjoy the right to travel abroad and to return home.

Article 61: Every citizen of the DRA is bound to observe the Constitution and the state laws of the DRA.

Ignorance of the provisions of the law is no excuse.

Article 62: Both citizens of the DRA and foreigners are bound to pay taxes and duties to the state in accordance with the provisions of the law.

Article 63: The defense of the homeland and the independence, national sovereignty, and territorial integrity of the country is the proud duty of the citizens of the DRA.

Conditions for service in the ranks of the Armed Forces of the DRA are to be regulated by the provisions of the law.

Article 64: The state will provide the conditions necessary for citizens to exercise their fundamental rights and liberties and to discharge their duties.

No one has the right to act against the public interest or to the detriment of the rights and liberties of other citizens, rights and liberties which are enshrined in the law.

Chapter IV [subhead]

The Grand Assembly

Article 65: The Grand Assembly, in accordance with our national historic traditions, is the highest manifestation of the will of the people of Afghanistan.

Article 66: The Grand Assembly consists of:

Members of the National Assembly;

Governors and the mayor of Kabul;
Members of the Council of Ministers;
Members of the Supreme Court;
The attorney general and his deputies;
Members of the Executive Board of the National Front; and
Outstanding political, scientific, social, and religious figures, who will be appointed by the president on the recommendation of the Secretariat of the National Front.

Article 67: The Grand Assembly enjoys the following powers:

1. The approval, amendment, and interpretation of the Constitution of the DRA;
2. The election of the president and the approval of the president's resignation;
3. The approval of declarations of war and truce; and
4. The adoption of decisions that pertain to the most important questions regarding the national destiny of the country.

Article 68: Except in cases otherwise defined in this Constitution, the Grand Assembly will be opened by the president and its sessions will be held under the chairmanship of the president or any other person appointed by the president as his deputy.

The decisions of the Grand Assembly, except in cases otherwise defined in the Constitution, will be adopted by a majority vote of the members present.

Article 69: The Grand Assembly's procedure will be approved at its first session.

Chapter V [subhead]

The DRA National Assembly

Article 70: The National Assembly of the DRA is the highest organ of legislative and state power.

Article 71: The National Assembly is composed of the House of Representatives and the Senate. Both houses enjoy equal rights.

Article 72: Deputies to the House of Representatives shall be elected by the citizens of the DRA for a period of 6 years.

Article 73: Two-thirds of the senators shall be elected and one-third shall be appointed.

The senators shall be elected and appointed as follows:

1. Two from every province, Kabul city, and units equivalent to it for a period of 6 years;
2. Two from every province for a period of 3 years by the assembly of people's representatives and its equivalent councils;
3. The remaining one-third of the members shall be appointed for a period of 3 years by the president from among learned, scholarly, and credible individuals and national figures.

Article 74: The number, conditions, and procedure of election and appointment to the House of Representatives and Senate shall be regulated by law.

Article 75: In addition to powers prescribed in this constitution, the National Assembly shall also enjoy the following powers:

1. Approval, amendment, and nullification of laws and decrees and their presentation to the president;
2. Interpretation of laws;
3. Ratification and annulment of international treaties;
4. Consideration and endorsement of the basic aspects of the country's domestic and foreign policy and the line of government activity;
5. Approval of socioeconomic development plans and endorsement of the government's report on their performance;
6. Approval of the state budget and endorsement of the report on its performance;
7. Establishment of administrative units and their changes;
8. Formation and abolition of ministries, state committees, and the central organs equivalent to ministries.

9. Determining the categories and conditions for granting orders, medals, and honorary titles;
10. Endorsement of the recommendation of the president on the appointment of vice presidents;
11. Establishing relations with foreign countries and international organizations; and
12. Granting privileges of substantial importance in the national economy, including monopoly rights.

Article 76: Each house of the National Assembly at its first session elects a Credentials Commission from among its members to authenticate credentials. The commission reports the results of its findings to the House and the House shall decide on them.

Article 77: At its first session, the House of Representatives elects from among its deputies the chairman, two deputy chairmen, and two secretaries for its whole period of tenure.

The Senate elects from among senators the chairman, two deputy chairmen, and two secretaries for a 3-year period. The chairman of each House shall conduct debates in the House and shall be responsible for the maintenance of order in the House.

In the absence of the chairmen, one of the deputy chairmen shall discharge their duties.

Article 78: The ordinary sessions of the National Assembly are held twice a year. The first session will open on 20 February and the second session on 23 August. If 20 February and 23 August are public holidays, the ordinary session will be held on the first day after the holiday.

An extraordinary session of the Houses of the National Assembly can be held on the decision of the president, a demand by the chairmen of each House, or a request by one-fifth of the members of each House.

Article 79: The Houses of the National Assembly can hold separate or joint sessions. The president shall inaugurate and prorogue the sessions of the National Assembly. The president will inaugurate the joint sessions of the National Assembly. He

will delegate the chairmanship in turn to one of the chairmen of the Houses of the National Assembly.

The first session of the National Assembly shall be summoned by the president within 30 days after elections to the House of Representatives of the National Assembly are held.

Article 80: A quorum for the Houses of the National Assembly will apply when two-thirds of the members of each House are present. The decisions of each House are passed by a majority vote of its total membership.

Article 81: The deliberations of the separate and joint sessions of the National Assembly shall be open, unless the House decides to meet in closed session.

Article 82: At its first joint session, the National Assembly shall consider the composition of the designated government and its line of activity based on a report from the chairman of the Council of Ministers. It will decide votes of confidence.

Article 83: Both Houses of the National Assembly shall elect standing commissions from among their members for the preliminary consideration and preparation of issues within their competence and for supervision over the implementation of DRA laws and other decisions and resolutions of each House, as well as for maintaining control over the activities of state organs.

Article 84: Each House of the National Assembly is empowered to form enquiry, auditing, and other temporary commissions as needed.

The tasks and procedures of the enquiry and auditing commissions shall be regulated by each House of the National Assembly.

The state organs, social organizations, officials in charge, and private and mixed institutions must fulfill the demands of these commissions and put necessary documents at their disposal.

Article 85: The decisions of the National Assembly adopted by the Houses separately or jointly are valid after they have been signed by the president. In the case of a difference of views between the House of Representatives and the Senate, a joint commission consisting of an equal number of members from both Houses shall be set up for resolving the differences. If the joint commission does not reach agreement, the matter shall be discussed at a joint session of the National Assembly and the decision shall be made by a majority vote of members. The decisions of the National Assembly become effective after they are signed by the president.

Article 86: Members of the National Assembly have the right to question the head of government or any member of the Council of Ministers and heads of other central organs on important issues.

The answers to questions shall be presented in verbal or written form to the joint session of the National Assembly.

The National Assembly may consider the question of confidence in the government on the basis of the answers presented at a question session.

A government that has lost confidence can continue in office until a new government is formed.

Article 87: Members of the Council of Ministers with a consultative vote may attend meetings of the Houses of the National Assembly.

Article 88: Members of the National Assembly have the right to express their views at separate and joint sessions.

No member of the National Assembly shall be subjected to criminal prosecution because of the vote or views expressed inside or outside an Assembly session. Except in cases of self-evident crimes, no member of the National Assembly shall be arrested, detained, or subjected to legal prosecution without the agreement of the House concerned or without the agreement of the chairman during the interval between sessions of the National Assembly.

Article 89: The following authorities enjoy the right of legislative proposal:

1. The president;
2. The standing commissions of the National Assembly;
3. At least one-tenth of the membership of each House;
4. The Council of Ministers;
5. The Supreme Court;
6. The Attorney General's Office; and
7. The Executive Body of the National Front.

Article 90: The president can declare the dissolution of the National Assembly. The dissolution of the Assembly also includes senators appointed by the president.

Reelections shall be held within at least 30 days after the dissolution of the National Assembly.

The dissolution of the new National Assembly shall not take place until 1 year after reelections. The National Assembly shall be dissolved during the last 6 months of office of the president.

Article 91: The laws and resolutions of the National Assembly shall be published in Pashto and Dari and can also be published in the languages of other nationalities of the country.

Article 92: The rules of procedure of the National Assembly and its standing commissions along with the salary scale of members of the National Assembly shall be regulated by law.

Chapter VI [subhead]

The President

Article 93: The president is head of state and will exercise his authority in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution.

Article 94: The president shall be elected by a majority vote of members of the Grand Assembly for a term of 7 years. A person cannot be elected as president for more than two terms.

Article 95: Any Muslim citizen of the DRA who has reached the age of 40, who is born of Afghan parents, and who enjoys civil and political rights can be elected president.

Article 96: After being elected, the president shall take the following oath:

"I swear in the name of Almighty God to protect the sacred religion of Islam; observe the Constitution of the DRA and supervise its implementation; safeguard the independence, national sovereignty,and territorial integrity of Afghanistan; preserve the basic rights and freedoms of citizens; and apply all my efforts to ensure social justice, the people's prosperity, the strengthening of peace, and the country's progress."

Article 97: The president enjoys the following powers:

1. Supreme command of the Armed Forces;
2. Approving and signing laws, decrees, and resolutions of the National Assembly and supervising their conformity with the Constitution;
3. Convening and inaugurating the ordinary and extraordinary sessions of the National Assembly;
4. Dissolving the National Assembly and determining the date for new elections;
5. Extending the term of the National Assembly in accordance with Article 135 of this Constitution;
6. Inviting, inaugurating, and presiding over the Grand Assembly except in cases noted in the Constitution;
7. Appointing the prime minister designate to form the government, approving the head and members of the government after receiving a vote of confidence from the National Assembly, and accepting their resignations;
8. Appointing the chief justice, deputies, and members of the Supreme Court;
9. Appointing the attorney general and his deputies;
10. Approving the appointment, promotion, and retirement of judges, high-ranking officials, and officers of the Armed Forces of the DRA according to the provisions of the law.

11. Making decisions on ascertaining public opinion or referendums on major political, social, and economic issues;
12. Pardoning and remitting sentences;
13. Receiving the credentials of the heads of diplomatic missions of foreign states to the DRA;
14. Accrediting heads of DRA diplomatic missions to foreign countries and international organizations;
15. Declaring a state of emergency and general and partial mobilization and their termination;
16. Declaring war and armistice with the agreement of the Grand Assembly;
17. Authorizing the issuance of money;
18. Granting citizenship and asylum;
19. Vetoing decisions of the National Assembly;
20. Implementing decisions of the National Assembly; and
21. Exercising other powers in accordance with the law.

Article 98: The president can veto the decisions of the National Assembly if he does not agree with them.

Any decision vetoed by the president is not enforceable and shall be returned to the National Assembly for revision.

The president can at any time revoke his decision vetoing a resolution of the National Assembly. If that resolution is approved again by a two-thirds majority vote of the members of each House, the decision of the National Assembly shall be valid and effective.

Article 99: The president shall continue in office until the end of his term except in the event of death, prolonged and incurable disease, or resignation. In all cases when the president is unable to discharge his duties, the presidential functions shall be entrusted to the first vice president.

In the case of permanent disability, death, or resignation of the president, the first vice president shall invite the Grand Assembly to elect a new president within 1 month.

In the event of resignation, the president shall submit his resignation directly to the Grand Assembly.

Chapter VII [subhead]

Council of Ministers of the DRA

Article 100: The Council of Ministers is the highest executive and administrative organ of state power in the DRA.

The Council of Ministers is composed of: the chairman of the Council of Ministers; the prime minister; the deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers; ministers; chairmen of state committees; and heads of central organs equivalent to ministries.

Article 101: The prime minister designate shall present the domestic and foreign policy line of the government to the first session of the National Assembly for a vote of confidence from the Assembly.

Article 102: The Council of Ministers is responsible to the National Assembly and to the president and shall submit reports to them.

Article 103: In order to tackle problems relating to the national economy and other issues of state administration, the Presidium of the Council of Ministers is established as the permanent executive organ of the Council of Ministers.

Article 104: The Council of Ministers shall discharge its duties until the formation of a new government which can gain a vote of confidence by the National Assembly.

Article 105: The structure, composition, authority, and procedure of activities of the Council of Ministers are regulated by law.

Chapter VIII [subhead]

Local Organs of State Power and Administration

Article 106: From the local administrative point of view, the DRA is divided into provinces, divisions, districts, cities, subdistricts, precincts, and villages.

The executive bodies of the local councils of people's deputies are the Executive Committees elected by the local councils of people's deputies.

The Executive Committees of local councils are led, respectively, by governors of provinces, divisions, district commissioners, mayors, subdistrict administrators, heads of precincts, and village chiefs.

The deputies to local councils are responsible to their electors and are bound to report to them.

Article 107: The local organs of state power and administration shall deal with all matters pertaining to local government, in consideration of the public interest of the country.

All institutions, organizations, and the concerned local departments must implement the decisions of local organs of state power and administration in the localities.

Article 108: The term of office of local councils is 3 years.

Article 109: The structure, duties, powers, and procedure of activities of local councils shall be regulated by law.

Chapter IX [subhead]

Foreign Policy

Article 110: The foreign policy of the DRA rests on ensuring national interests, the consolidation of independence, the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country, the preservation of peace and world security, peaceful coexistence, equality of rights, and comprehensive development of international cooperation.

Article 111: The DRA respects and observes the UN Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and other accepted principles and norms of international law.

Article 112: The DRA pursues the policy of nonalignment as a significant principle of state foreign policy and, as one of the founders of the Nonaligned Movement, strives for its objectives.

Article 113: The DRA favors establishing friendly relations with all countries, irrespective of their sociopolitical and economic systems, based on the principles of equal rights, mutual respect for independence, national sovereignty, territorial integrity, noninterference in each other's internal affairs, abstention from the use or threat of force, denunciation of all forms of interference and aggression, and the sincere fulfillment of international commitments in accordance with the accepted principles and norms of international law.

Article 114: The DRA supports the struggle of peoples and nations for peace, national independence, democracy, and social progress, as well as the right of nations to self-determination. It opposes colonialism, neocolonialism, imperialism, Zionism, racism, apartheid,and (?fascism).

Article 115: The DRA supports the struggle for total disarmament, the cessation of the arms race on earth and in space, the nonproliferation and elimination of nuclear and chemical weapons and other kinds of mass destructive armaments, the dismantling of aggressive military bases, the relaxation of international tensions, and the establishment of a new and just international economic and information order.

Article 116: War propaganda is forbidden in the DRA.

Chapter X [subhead]

The Judiciary

Article 117: Judgment in the DRA shall be rendered only by the court in accordance with the provisions of law. Courts in the DRA include the Supreme Court, provincial courts, divisional courts, district courts, city courts, sub-district courts, precinct courts, and courts of the Armed Forces.

The state may set up specialized courts within a unified system of the judiciary.

Article 118: As the highest judicial organ, the Supreme Court heads the country's unified system of the judiciary and is composed of the chief justice, deputies of the chief justice, and members of the Supreme Court.

In accordance with the provisions of law, the Supreme Court shall supervise the activities of the courts and ensure the uniform application of laws by all courts.

Article 119: The chief justice, deputy chief justices, and members of the Supreme Court shall be appointed by the president for a 5-year period.

The Supreme Court reports on its activities to the president.

Article 120: The judges shall be independent in their judicial practices and shall only yield to the law.

The courts shall consider cases and render judgments thereon, based on the principle of equality of the parties to a case before the law and the court.

Article 121: The judges shall apply the provisions of the Constitution and the laws of the DRA in the cases under their consideration.

Where no explicit provision exists in the law, the court shall, following the provisions of Islamic Shari'ah, render a decision that secures justice in the best possible way.

Article 122: Trials shall be held openly in the courts. The circumstances under which a case is considered in closed trials are determined by the law.

The judgment of the court shall be openly delivered in all circumstances.

Article 123: The consideration and judgment by the courts shall be conducted in the Pashto and Dari languages or in the language of the majority of the residents of the locality. If one party to the case does not understand the language in which the proceedings are being conducted, he is guaranteed the right to become acquainted with the materials and documents of the case through a genuine interpreter and the right to speak in his mother tongue in the court.

Article 124: The decisions of the courts must contain a statement of their opinions. The enforcement of the final verdict of the courts is obligatory, except in the case of a death sentence wherein the execution of the verdict shall be subject to endorsement by the president.

Article 125: The structure, composition, jurisdiction, and method of the activity of the courts shall be regulated.

Chapter XI [subhead]

Attorney's Office

Article 126: The Public Prosecutor's Office of the DRA is a unified system based on the principle of centralism. It is composed of: the attorney general; attorneys of provinces, divisions, districts, subdistricts, cities, and precincts; and the attorney of the Armed Forces. The state can set up a special attorney's office within the unified attorney system.

Article 127: The attorney general shall lead the activities of the country's attorneys.

The attorneys are independent in the performance of their duties and are subject only to the law and the attorney general.

Article 128: The attorney general is appointed by the president for a 5-year period.

The attorney general is responsible and bound to report on his activities to the president.

Article 129: Supervision of the implementation and uniform observance of laws by ministries, state committees, and other central organs of state administration, executive committees of local councils, state, mixed and private institutions, departments, cooperatives, social organizations, officials in charge, and citizens shall be undertaken by the attorney general and the attorneys subordinate to him.

Article 130: The structure, composition, authority, and method of activity of attorneys shall be regulated by the law.

Chapter XII [subhead]

Final Provisions

Article 131: The Constitution of the DRA enjoys the highest legal credibility; laws and other legislative documents shall be regulated on the basis of it and in conformity with it.

Article 132: The state and all its organs shall function on the basis of this Constitution and the laws of the DRA and ensure legal order, the interests of society, and the rights and legal interests of citizens. State, cooperative, mixed and private institutions, parties, social organizations, and officials in charge are obliged to observe the Constitution and laws of the DRA.

Article 133: Decisions on the approval of this Constitution and its amendment shall be made on the proposal of the president or National Assembly by a majority vote of at least two-thirds of the total membership of the Grand Assembly.

Article 134: Whenever the preservation of independence, national sovereignty, territorial integrity, and internal security become impossible through the channels provided for in this Constitution due to war, danger of war, disturbances, or similar conditions, a state of emergency may be proclaimed by the president.

Should a state of emergency continue for more than 3 months, the consent of the Grand Assembly is imperative for its extension.

Article 135: In a state of emergency, the president shall have the following powers:

1. Extension of the tenure of office of the National Assembly;
2. Delegation of authority of the National Assembly to the Council of Ministers in full or in part;
3. Partial transfer of powers of the general courts to special and military courts;
4. Suspension or renewal of the validity of some of the provisions of Chapter III of this Constitution;
5. Temporary transfer of the capital from Kabul to any other place; and
6. Exercise of other authorities in accordance with the law.

Article 136: The Constitution of the DRA shall come into force from the date of its adoption by the Grand Assembly.

With the enforcement of this Constitution, the Fundamental Principles of the DRA shall be abrogated.

Article 137: The laws and other legislative documents issued prior to the enforcement of this Constitution shall be considered effective provided that they are not repugnant to the provisions of this Constitution.

Gandhi on Attempt To Sabotage Venkataraman Election

BK171500 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1430 GMT 17 Jul 87

[Text] The prime minister has said that government has definite proof that certain forces attempted to sabotage the election of Mr Venkataraman as the president of India. He said the evidence will be placed before the nation at an appropriate time. Mr Rajiv Gandhi was addressing a large gathering which had assembled at his residence in New Delhi to congratulate him on the victory of Mr Venkataraman. They included prominent citizens and congressmen.

The prime minister referred to concerted moves by anti-Congress-I forces to denigrate and damage the party. He regretted that even some of the congressmen who had stood behind the party between 1977 and 1980 are now joining hands with them. These people, he said, are fully aware of the fact that the forces opposed to Congress policies had appointed commissions of enquiry against Mrs Indira Gandhi and launched prosecution against her. They were also opposed to Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru and critical of congress policies. Mr Gandhi was confident that the country can march forward only by following congress policies. He called upon the partymen to pursue the same path.

He said India had always followed an independent and non-aligned policy and it will continue to do so. No power on earth can pressurize us to deviate from this path. Mr Gandhi pointed out that certain big powers are always trying to dominate and dictate to poor and weaker nations. We have to fight against these attempts. He underlined the need to instill in people the spirit of pre-independence days.

Prime Minister Assesses Economic Performance

BK200904 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Text] The prime minister has asserted that the country's economy is in good shape and presents a picture of tremendous potential for growth. The average growth rate is about 5 percent per year since 1980. Inaugurating a 3-day conference of the economic editors in New Delhi today, Mr Rajiv Gandhi said it should be our endeavor to reinforce the productive forces in the economy to achieve our objective of building a strong a self-reliant nation.

Referring to the battle against poverty, Mr Gandhi said that 48 percent of the population was below the poverty line at the beginning of the sixth plan. It has come down to 37 percent at the end of the sixth plan. He said government is making every effort to see that it comes down further to 25 percent by the end of the seventh plan.

The prime minister said the average rate of inflation in the past 6 years is only about 6 percent. Expressing concern at the balance of payments position, Mr Gandhi said most of the developing countries have the same problem. However, it is within manageable limits as far as India is concerned. Special efforts have been made to strengthen export performance.

Mr Gandhi said that the government's objective in agriculture has been to increase rural income and employment through high-yielding varieties and better cultivation methods. Government has pursued a strategy of making available to the farmers all the inputs they need. Referring to the industrial sector, the prime minister announced that the government will present to parliament a white paper spelling out its policy relevant to building a strong public sector in the country. He said that both private and public sectors must dedicate themselves to raising productivity.

Former Minister Denies Reasons Given for Resignation

BK210351 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Text] The former minister of state for defense, Mr Arun Singh, has expressed distress over reports appearing in the press about reasons for his resignation. In a statement in New Delhi yesterday, he said that he resigned due to personal reasons and his action cannot be connected with his former responsibilities in the Defense Ministry. He categorically said that he has no intention to be a party to the campaign being led against the prime minister. He also said that those members who have been expelled recently have done disservice to the party at a critical time. Mr Arun Singh added that he will continue to extend full support to Mr Rajiv Gandhi.

Home Minister Says No Dialogue Until Terrorism Ends

BK181636 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 18 Jul 87

[Text] The home minister, Mr Buta Singh, has made it clear that the center would not initiate any dialogue with any group in Punjab until terrorism is eliminated. He was talking to newsmen today after inspecting the passing out parade of assistant commandants at the Border Security Force [BSF] Academy near Gwalior. He said the government's first priority is to end terrorism and nowhere in the world has terrorism been eliminated through talks.

Mr Buta Singh said the checks along the country's border have helped in preventing infiltration. He said that the terrorist group responsible for the killing of bus passengers at Lalru near Patiala has been identified. Earlier, addressing the BSF officers, the home minister commended the role of the organization in protecting the country's borders.

Commentary Criticizes Junejo Bombing Allegations

BK201427 Delhi General Overseas Service in English
1010 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Commentary by H. Sitarama Rao: "The Pakistani Prime Minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo's Baseless Allegation"]

[Text] Conflicting trends in Pakistan's policy toward India continue to persist. This makes a rational analysis of the process of normalization of relations between the two neighbors very difficult. A case in view is the recent allegation made by no less

a person than the prime minister of Pakistan, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, who saw India's involvement in the current spate of bomb blasts in Pakistan.

India, as expected, has strongly deplored Mr Junejo's unfounded and baseless allegation about India's involvement in Pakistan's internal affairs. As the External Affairs spokesman in New Delhi put it, India strongly condemns all acts of terrorist violence and remains committed to normalization of relations with Pakistan in accordance with the letter and spirit of the Simla Agreement.

The conflicting trends in Pakistan's policy are visible in this case clearly, as Mr Junejo's allegation came only a day after General Ziaul Haq asserted that Afghanistan was involved in the terrorist campaign. Mr Junejo must be adopting the policy that offense is the best method of defense. India has time and again given evidence of Pakistan's involvement in training Punjab terrorists in Pakistan. Obviously, to counter it, Mr Junejo has now come out with allegations about India's involvement in the recent spate of bomb blasts, which took a toll of over 70 lives in Karachi alone. Not only that, Mr Junejo has accused India of running some 17 camps to train saboteurs for subversion in Sind and Punjab. These allegations are truly extraordinary by any standard. Not a shred of evidence exists to support the view that India could have conceivably been involved in encouraging saboteurs in Karachi, or more generally, in subversion in Sind and Punjab in Pakistan. Such a proposition simply does not make sense in the context of what is known about Indian Government views on its so-called involvement or lack of it in Pakistani politics and absence of any leverage on its part over any opposition group in that country.

This apart, the allegations are themselves noteworthy for their motivations and purposes. The fact that they have been made shows, in the first place, how desperate the Zia regime is to blame others for its own failures. Those failures are particularly glaring in respect of its handling of Pakistan's ethnic problems. Indeed, it is impossible to understand the character of the Islamabad government, especially under the present military-civilian amalgam, except in terms of its imposition of just one dominant nationality -- the Punjabi -- upon the rest of the population. The resentment of all other nationalist and ethnic linguistic groups toward Islamabad on this count is legend. Indeed, not one of these groups, including the religious minorities, can possibly feel that it is realistic to think of reaching any kind of accommodation with a Punjab-dominated government in Islamabad. Their bitterness cannot be unrelated to the root causes of the recent bomb blasts. But simply because it is comprehensively unable to cope with this bitterness should Islamabad look for a scapegoat?

The tentacles of terrorism, until recently confined largely to the politically volatile North-West Frontier region in view of its proximity to the Afghan border, seem to be spreading even to safe areas like Karachi and Lahore. The fact that during the past 3 months alone more than 150 lives were lost in bomb blasts in different parts of Pakistan brings into sharp focus the ominous dimension of the terrorist menace and of the failure of the authorities to track down the perpetrators of the crimes.

The need of the hour is to improve relations between India and Pakistan. As Mr Ghulam Murtaza Shah Syed, 84-year-old veteran freedom fighter and Pakistan's opposition leader, put it: India and Pakistan could be strong in the region only if they work unitedly. However, several negative developments have marred India's efforts at improving relations with Pakistan. These developments are Pakistan's assistance to Punjab terrorists, its nuclear weapons program and search for American AWACS-type facility, and its reluctance to forge nondiscriminatory trade relations with India.

Commentary on Postponement of Indian Ocean Meeting

BK181445 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1340 GMT 18 Jul 87

[By political commentator Sunil Roy: "The Indian Ocean Meeting Which Has Been Put Off Again"]

[Text] The quest for peace cannot have a time frame, and its path is bound to be uneven. But never before has the UN conference on Indian Ocean to declare it a zone of peace been so elusive. India has all along been at the forefront over the past 15 years in demanding early convening of the conference to discuss the growing militarization of the Indian Ocean. The superpower rivalry in the Indian Ocean has been positively detrimental to the security interest of all the littoral states. It is in this background that the recent postponement of the UN meet on Indian Ocean and its implications have to be assessed. It has brought fresh waves of disappointment in India and other nonaligned countries. The latest on the conference is that it has been put off by 2 more years. This means that the conference in Colombo will take place no earlier than 1990.

The conference was originally scheduled to be held in Colombo in 1981 after a decision taken by the UN General Assembly in 1979. In the main the conference was to consider implementation of the General Assembly's resolution adopted in 1971 declaring the Indian Ocean a zone of peace. Since then the proposed conference has been a victim of superpower differences, which have led to a series of postponements. The Western countries led by the United States have brought in the issue of Soviet presence in Afghanistan, insisting that the Soviets should pull out of that country before a meaningful conference can be held. The situation has its parallel in linking Namibian independence to the presence of Cuban forces in Angola.

The U.S. opposition to the holding of the conference in Colombo was made known in July 1985 through an amendment to the report of the ad hoc committee on the Indian Ocean at the United Nations. The American amendment to the ad hoc committee's report to the UN General Assembly underlines U.S. willingness [as heard] to attend the proposed Indian Ocean conference in Colombo as long as Afghanistan remained occupied by, what it called, the military forces of extraregional great power. This was a signal from Washington that the conference in Colombo would be held a hostage as long as Moscow did not withdraw its forces from Afghanistan.

Coupled with this approach the deteriorating domestic situation in Sri Lanka contributed to further postponement of the conference. As things stand today, Sri Lanka is not expected to handle a UN conference in the foreseeable future as most of its admin-

istrative machinery is geared to meet the challenge of the ethnic conflict. Meanwhile, Sri Lanka hosted in January this year an international conference on economic, scientific, and technical cooperation in marine affairs in the Indian Ocean. Evidently, Sri Lanka wanted to dilute the objective of the UN conference on the Indian Ocean in view of its present policy stance that favors Western countries. India abstained from the marine conference, viewing it as a move to divert world attention from the UN resolution to make the Indian Ocean a zone of peace. India also felt that Sri Lanka was not keen on the resolution and its obligatory responsibility of hosting the UN conference on quick implementation of the proposal to create Indian Ocean a zone of peace by all littoral states of the region.

After several postponements of the UN conference on Indian Ocean, it was agreed last year that the conference be held not later than 1988. But even that target date cannot be achieved now. A 51-nation UN ad hoc committee on the Indian Ocean, headed by Sri Lanka, concluded last weekend that the conference now be held not later than 1990. The resolution of the ad hoc committee will come up before the next UN General Assembly session beginning in September. The decision to postpone the conference further was taken after sharp differences between the Western countries on the one hand and the nonaligned and socialist countries on the other. In view of a deadlock the meeting of the ad hoc committee was extended by 2 days to thrash out a consensus.

Between now and 1990 superpower rivalry in the Indian Ocean would certainly not cease. On the contrary, it would be on the increase. As a host country, Sri Lanka has a much greater role to play in the early convening of the conference. This would mean reversal of Colombo's present policy toward the West.

Khamene'i: Reflagged Kuwaiti Ships Will Be Attacked
LD211135 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0934 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Speech by Iranian President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i in Tabriz 20 July — recorded]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Regarding the Persian Gulf, it is a logical statement. Whoever came here and heard our logical remarks about the issue of the Kuwaiti ships had no answer. Some people arrived with a great deal of ammunition and left deflated. The point is, that a country is at war with us. There is another country that is selling oil for the country that is at war with us. Oil tankers pass in front of us. It permits the country that is at war with us to cross to the sea and hit our oil tankers. I said to that representative, who was carrying a message not only from his own country but from the seven industrialized countries: Suppose they hit your ship at sea. If the person who attacks your ship is giving you lip-service, would you retaliate or not? He had no answer. They want Iranian oil tankers to be attacked and damaged, Iran's oil exports to be halted, and its transactions to face difficulties. However, they also want other ships to come and pass through the same course and sell oil on behalf of the country that is creating this situation for us. Is this practical? Is it reasonable? We said: We will not allow this.

We want peace in the Persian Gulf. We do not want anyone to attack any ship in the Persian Gulf. This is our proposal. We want all ships to come and go in the Persian Gulf in security. This is our proposal. Iraq does not want to accept this. Because she cannot do it herself, she uses Kuwait as a platform for dealing blows. We fire; it could hit either one of them. One of them attacks and the other helps him to deal blows.

Now the United States has entered the scene. It has flexed its muscles and said: I will carry Kuwait's oil. We say: While ships are carrying Kuwait's oil under the U.S. flag, two things can happen. Our own oil tankers may not be hit. So much the better! Instead of 11 ships, the United States may bring 100 ships and carry Kuwait's oil; we will not do anything. It is Kuwait's disgrace that it seeks the help of others. Nevertheless, we will not interfere. The second case is that while the U.S. flag is protecting Kuwait's oil, our ships are hit by missiles and bullets. In that case, we will not consider under which country's flag the oil is being shipped. Even if it is the U.S. flag, we will hit it, time and again. [shouts of approval from the audience] [passage omitted]

Khamene'i Attends Tabriz Military Base Ceremony
LD201202 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Excerpts] A Central News Unit correspondent reports on the continuing visit to Eastern Azarbayjan Province by Mr Khamene'i, the president and chairman of the Supreme Defense Council:

[Unidentified correspondent] On the second day of his stay in Tabriz, Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, the president and chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, attended this morning's joint ceremonies of the town's military and security forces at the morning square of the second intercepter base. The ceremony was also attended by Ayatollah Malakuti, the imam's representative and Friday imam of Tabriz; the commander of the Air Force; a number of Majlis deputies for Eastern Azarbayjan Province; and a group of officials from the province. [passage omitted]

Referring to reports published about the new U.S. action to use 12 warships, supported by 50 fighter planes, to escort two Kuwaiti ships in the Persian Gulf, the president said: With your strength and resistance you have frightened the United States to this extent, for it has not acted this way before. Therefore, you should value and preserve your unity and allegience to the nation. [passage omitted]

Delivers Speech at Airbase
LD202217 Tehran IRNA in English 1959 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Text] Tabriz, East Azarbayjan Prov., July 20, IRNA — President 'Ali Khamene'i today lauded the Iranian Armed Forces as [words indistinct] capable fighting force, which he said is improving all the time, and whose presence has been felt both in the battlefields and the political arena.

The president made the remarks at a joint flag hoisting ceremony of the armed and disciplinary forces at Tabriz airbase here where he said that even world analysts have confessed to the power of Iranian Armed Forces whose reputation is steadily growing.

Commenting on the U.S. interference in Iran during the ex-shah's regime, Khamene'i said aggressor forces in the past belittled the power of the Iranian forces, while now even low-ranking Iranian forces are now viewed as "powerful troops".

Iranian officers and technicians have put into operation and repaired instruments and equipment which [words indistinct] low-level U.S. experts were incapable of doing during the ex-shah's regime, he said.

Elsewhere the president said the U.S.'s decision to reflag two Kuwaiti tankers and escort them with 12 warships and 50 warplanes is actually a testimony to Iranian Armed Forces power.

Addressing himself to the Iranian Armed Forces including Army and IRGC the president urged them to vigilantly guard their unity because he said an Iranian victory today would bring joy and encouragement to over one billion Muslims in the world.

Meanwhile, commanders and pilots of the Tabriz air base met president and head of the Supreme Defence Council Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i here on the same day where commander of the base said that the pilots based there have to date carried out over 900 sorties against Iraqi military and economic [words indistinct] inflicting considerable losses on them.

The president termed the Air Force's role in wars as "determining" and said victorous "Val-Fajr-8" operations (launched in Feb. 1986) would not have succeeded if Iranian combatants had not been supported by the Air Force.

Commanders of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) in East and West Azarbayjan and Zanjan Provinces also briefed the president on the activities of their units concerning the war in a separate meeting.

In another development President Khamene'i was informed of political, economic and social situation of East Azarbayjan Province by the provincial officials. Khamene'i urged all Islamic Republic officials to pay back what he said they owe to the Islamic system through working and good and logical contacts with the people.

Tehran deputy (?in) Majlis (parliament), Hoj. Mohammad [name indistinct] Shabestari who is accompanying the president in his visit to this northwestern province arrived in the city of Mianeh today and conveyed condolence of the president to families of the innocent civilian martyred during Iraqi bombardment last year. President Khamene'i arrived here Sunday for a five-day visit.

Envoy Delivers Al-Asad Message to Khamene'i
LD211535 Tehran IRNA in English 1507 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Text] Tabriz, West Azarbayjan Prov, July 21, IRNA — Iranian Ambassador to Damascus Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Hasan Akhtari met President 'Ali Khamene'i in this northwestern city on Tuesday and submitted him a message from his Syrian counterpart President Hafiz al-Asad. The president is here on a five-day inspection tour of the province.

Kuwaiti Prime Minister Cited on Ship Reflagging
LD201744 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Text] According to an IRNA report, Shaykh al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister of Kuwait, in a press conference today announced that his country favors the Security Council resolution on the declaration of an immediate cease-fire in the Iran-Iraq war. Emphasizing that the plan for escorting Kuwaiti tankers by the U.S. Navy will be implemented in the near future, he said: The registration of the ships in the United States is a commercial measure and is not intended to intensify the war or create a clash between great powers in the region.

Al-Salim al-Sabah refrained from expressing his views regarding the United States' possible reaction to Iranian attacks on Kuwaiti ships with U.S. flags, but he said: At the moment, these tankers will be regarded as U.S. tankers and I am certain that the United States will defend them.

In response to a question on whether or not Kuwait is going to place military installations at the disposal of the United States, Shaykh al-Salim al-Sabah said: In the event that the United States needs more facilities, Kuwait will study this. In another part of his press conference, this high-ranking Kuwaiti official emphasized Kuwait's support for Iraq and said that Iraq should not be left alone in this war.

3 Kuwaiti 'Spy Boats' Stopped; Crews Arrested
LD211229 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Text] The Joint Staff of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps announces: Three Kuwaiti spy boats were spotted by the patrol unit of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps in the Persian Gulf waters and their crews have been arrested.

Commentary Says U.S. Making 'Serious Mistake'
LD211420 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1235 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Commentary from the "Messages From the Front" program]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted citing Western reports on Security Council resolution] Let us see which party this resolution and similar plans favor. This is a question that can be answered by anyone. The answer is that the resolution favors Iraq and its supporters.

When he speaks of free navigation, Reagan is trying to justify sending U.S. ships to the Persian Gulf. When he speaks of the free flow of oil, Reagan is trying to immerse himself in his own pleasant dreams and foolishly entertain the idea of Washington's domination over strategic Persian Gulf waterways. However, little does he know that sooner or later these dreams -- based on fantasy -- will turn into nightmares which, having come to fruition, will shake the foundations of the Black House on the other side of the world.

Under the pretext of the security of the Persian Gulf, the United States is trying to pave the way for its intervention in the region. By sending its ships to the warm waters of the Persian Gulf, Washington wishes to increase its political influence by means of its military presence. More important, however, is Reagan's attempt to restore Washington's lost reputation through his idiotic games. The U.S. plan of escorting Kuwaiti oil tankers is precisely along this same line. It actually gives priority to the question of saving face rather than the security of the Persian Gulf.

At any rate, in assessing the trend of Washington's activities in the Persian Gulf -- even if we consider the worst possible aspect of the crisis; namely, direct U.S. involvement in serious military confrontation against Iranian forces -- we shall undoubtedly conclude that, although it is possible for Reagan and U.S. ruling circles to commit the serious mistake of mounting a military confrontation with Iran, the Americans shall never be able to comprehend the dimensions of a tragedy of their own making.

This imposed war is a living example of the response of the heroic Iranian people to aggressors and plunderers. The United States has made its point; now here is its chance. However, there remains one further point to clarify: Reagan must remember that it would be much sweeter for our people to kill their masters — that is, the aggressor Yankees — than to kill Iraqi troops.

Reportage on UN Security Council Resolution

'Shows Little Progress'

LD202002 Tehran IRNA in English 1922 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Text] London, July 20, IRNA — The new resolution being adopted by the Security Council on Iraq's war against Iran shows little progress apart from its call for an inquiry into who was responsible for the conflict which began when Iraq invaded Iran in 1980.

The presence of an array of foreign ministers rather than their ambassadors at the New York forum for the debate Monday is seen as an attempt to emphasise the importance of what will be the seventh formal United Nations (UN) call to bring about an end to the seven [words indistinct].

Three of the five permanent members of the Security Council, Britain, France and the United States, as well as Argentina, West Germany and Italy of the ten elected (?members are) represented by their (?foreign) ministers. The position of China and the Soviet Union is not known.

Before leaving for the UN, Britain's Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe was optimistic that the resolution would be passed unanimously. It was the first time there had been such concerted action, he said, maintaining that (?it is) not just as a Western initiative but the whole world wanted to bring the conflict to an end.

The new motion shows little advance on the last resolution, Number 582, passed in February 1986 and where the UN has been recognised as (?being) extremely slow in (?tackling) the real issues.

Unlike previous move, the new call includes some consideration of who was responsible (?for starting) the war by the setting up of a judicial committee to determine the cause. The call for an impartial inquiry is reportedly designed to attract a favourable response from Tehran, which has always insisted that Iraq, which launched war when it poured troops into Iran on September 23, 1980, be identified and punished as the aggressor.

Additionally, the UN recognition for the need of post-war reconstruction "with appropriate international assistance" is seen as going some of the way to meet Iran's claim for war reparations for Iraq's campaign of human and material destructions.

It is remembered that the powers in the Second World War not only insisted upon the unconditional surrender of Germany and Japan but carried forward their program of reparations and the bringing to justice of "war criminals." Over 40 years later, cases are still being pressed against those alleged to have committed "crimes against humanity."

Iran has maintained its position with UN calls that while it remains silent in the face of Iraq's persistent war crimes, the Security Council can have no valid platform on the war. [sentence as received]

Speaking on the new UN moves Sunday, President 'Ali Khamene'i said that the resolution had been prepared under U.S. influence and was "not worth a penny."

The Security Council has been seen as only launching real efforts about ending the conflict after it was conceded that Iraq had no chance of winning the war that it started.

In its first call only five days after Iraq poured troops into Iran, the UN made no mention to the mass invasion or withdrawing to internationally-recognised borders but simply appealed for the "dispute" to be settled peacefully. It was not until July 1982, when most of Iraq's invasion forces had been ousted from Iran, that the Security Council ventured any reference for a "withdrawal" to international boundaries.

The unilateral use of chemical weapons by Iraq against Iran has been verified by Un experts since 1984 but it took the United Nations a further two years to officially name Iraq as the villain and was [words indistinct] in denunciation of the outlawed weapons.

Foreign Ministry Response

LD210933 Tehran IRNA in English 0925 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Text] Tehran, July 21 (IRNA) — The Iranian Foreign Ministry in a statement issued today, reiterated that the Islamic Republic's 'principal stance' vis-a-vis the Iraqi imposed war and the presence of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf will not change at all.

It also said the issue of Iraqi aggressions in the Persian Gulf which had resulted in the presence of foreign forces in the region is independent of the issue of the Iraqi imposed war and therefore the Security Council has a direct and independent responsibility vis-a-vis the Persian Gulf crisis and the recent resolution is in no way responsive.

The statement added that the intervention of American forces in the Persian Gulf including the increased aggressive presence of its warships would be a blatant violation of the recent resolution of the council making it null and void. It said the Security Council by issuing the unjust resolution once again failed to perform its most important duty in preserving peace and international security.

The statement said the Iranian Foreign Ministry will declare its detailed position regarding each and every article of the resolution later.

UN Resolution Rejected

LD211034 Tehran IRNA in English 1025 GMT 21 Jul 87

["Foreign Ministry Rejects Security Council Resolution" — IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, July 21, IRNA — The Foreign Ministry in a statement Tuesday spurned Monday night's U.N. Security Council resolution calling on both Iran and Iraq to end the 7 year

old imposed war on Iran. Terming it "unjust" the ministry added that it will shortly announce its stance on every single paragraph of the resolution.

Meanwhile, an informed political source in a contact with IRNA, rejected the resolution saying that if the Security Council had any good intention it would have started conducting studies to identify the initiator of the war, rather than merely referring to it in one of the articles of the resolution, without bothering to take any other measure. After identifying the aggressor, it could have released the resolution if it deemed necessary.

The source stressed that release of the present resolution by the Security Council merely encourages an aggressor and a tyrant.

Parts of Resolution Contradictory

LD211201 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Text] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran has issued a statement in response to UN Security Council Resolution No 598, which was approved last night. In this statement, it said: At the end of the seventh year of the large-scale and comprehensive aggression of Iraq against the Islamic Republic of Iran, the UN Security Council once again has fallen short of implementing its most important duty in maintaining international peace and security by approving an unjust resolution. The Security Council definitely cannot deny its mistake in ignoring the contents of Chapter 7 of the UN Charter, which addresses the practical steps to be taken by the Security Council against any kind of aggression, and Iraq's violation of peace at the beginning of her aggression.

References to Articles 39 and 40 of Chapter 7 of the Charter, which have been used as the basis for the recent resolution, not only will not make amends for past mistakes, but they have ignored the issue of Iraq's responsibility in resorting to force and starting the war. For this reason the recent resolution will not have the slightest effect in inhibiting or reducing the scale of the imposed war, the responsibility for which rests solely on the Iraqi regime.

Resolution No 598 even lacks the slightest internal coherence. Some of the binding articles of the resolution are in clear contradiction with one another. For this reason, it is clear that this resolution has been approved under the most unsuitable circumstances and under pressure of unprincipled motives that are not in keeping with the spirit of the UN Charter.

In the statement of our Ministry of Foreign Affairs, it has been emphasized that Resolution No 598 of the Security Council has called for the setting up of a committee to determine the responsibility for starting the war under conditions whereby the outcome of that investigation will not have the slightest effect on other binding decisions of the Security Council about ending the war. Therefore, the resolution suffers from clear contradictions.

The role of the secretary general in minimizing the pain of the imposed war and preventing its spreading has been reduced to a minimum. As a result, Iraq has been left free to continue its war crimes. This resolution has been approved under conditions whereby the United States, in announcing its decision to send warships to the region, has already violated the fifth binding clause of the resolution, in which other countries have been requested not to interfere in intensifying and expanding the fires of the war.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran emphatically announces that the principled position of the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding the imposed war and the issue of the presence of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf will not be changed under any circumstances. The issue of Iraqi aggression in the Persian Gulf, which has led to the crisis of the presence of foreign forces in this region, is basically independent from the issue of the imposed war. Therefore, the Security Council has a direct and independent responsibility regarding the crisis of the Persian Gulf. The recent resolution in no way fulfills this responsibility.

The interference of U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf and the increase in the aggressive presence of that country's warships in the Persian Gulf will be a clear violation of the recent resolution of the Council and will further confirm the lack of credibility of that resolution.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran will subsequently announce its detailed position regarding all the clauses of Resolution 598.

Commentary on 'Biased' Stand

LD211344 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1110 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Political commentary: "The Security Council and Its Biased Stand"]

[Excerpts] Yesterday, the Security Council passed a nine-point resolution on the Iraqi-imposed war on Iran. The resolution, whose draft was drawn up by the five permanent members of the Security Council, particularly the United States, places emphasis on the need for an immediate cease-fire between Iran and Iraq.

The Security Council members reached a common and enforceable conclusion 7 years after the start of the war. This 7-year delay by the Security Council is, in fact, in contravention of Article 51 of the Council for, according to this article, the Council is required to send a fact-finding mission to the two warring sides and, having carried out the necessary investigation, is then required to adopt a principled position. However, instead of adhering to this principle -- as stipulated in the UN Charter -- the Security Council confined itself to issuing Resolution 479, calling on both countries to end their military conflict. [passage omitted citing resolution 479]

As for the present stand of the Security Council regarding the withdrawal of the warring sides to international borders, the question which should be put to the Security Council is the following: Considering that there was a time when the Iraqi Army occupied thousands of kilometers of Islamic Republic territory, why did the Security Council at that time fail to call

on the two countries to withdraw to their international borders? Are not the duplicious stands by the Council, each contradicting the other, indicative of the Council's indirect support for Iraq?

In the midst of all these developments, one significant point is that despite the fact that the war actually started 7 years ago, the Security Council has yet to appoint a commission to determine the aggressor, while, according clauses stipulated in Chapter 7 of the UN Charter, the Security Council is required to send a fact-finding mission to the warring sides' battlefronts in order to reach a decision on how to end the war. Having said that, it is very unclear as to how, without bothering to undertake a serious investigation, the Security Council has adopted a position with regard to ending the war. [passage omitted citing UN Charter]

The legitimate defense put up by the Muslim Iranian people, though it met with a cold shoulder on the part of the Security Council, is well understood by public opinion. Everyone knows that in vindicating its rights, the Iranian nation has paid very dearly for every inch of its territory. Consequently, if the Security Council wishes to attend to the issue of the war, then only when the Council openly condemns Iraq's flagrant aggression will the Islamic Republic accept it. Otherwise, in line with their policies, Islamic fighters will respond to the aggressor during their relentless operations, as this was the objective of "Fath-8" operations.

Resolution, Reflagging Assailed

LD211404 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1117 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Unattributed commentary: "The Security Council Resolution and the Reflagging of Kuwaiti Ships With the U.S. Flag"]

[Text] Simultaneous with news and reports on the date of the reflagging of Kuwaiti ships, the White House spokesman clearly stated yesterday that the reflagging of the first of those ships will begin today, Tuesday. However, he refused to be specific on the date the ships will be escorted and when they will begin operating under the protection of the U.S. fleet.

According to informed sources and last week's statements by the chairman of the Armed Services Committee, the plan is to be implemented beginning 22 July, this Wednesday. So the Reagan plan has now been postponed for the umpteenth time. U.S. official statements have indicated that the Reagan administration was planning to postpone the date of the implementation of the plan until after the passage of the Security Council resolution. This is because the Reagan administration expects Iraq to accept the Security Council resolution and, at least for a period, to refrain from attacking ships in the Persian Gulf. The Iraqi regime's temporary restraint from engaging in acts of mischief would in effect provide a suitable opportunity for the Reagan administration -- with the implementation of its plan in the Persian Gulf and with a range of practical experience gained in the course of its operation -- to minimize its vulnerability as much as possible.

Furthermore, from the standpoint of U.S. officials, a positive (?Iraqi) response to the Security Council resolution on the Iran-Iraq war would create further favorable conditions for Washington to pressure the Islamic Republic of Iran. In the light of extensive congressional opposition and repeated warnings issued by veteran U.S. statesmen, as well as the refusal of its allies to take an active part in protecting Kuwaiti ships, the Reagan administration is now seriously concerned that its intervention in the Persian Gulf would involve the United States in a military conflict with the Islamic Republic. Quite apart from the U.S. forces' vulnerability, Washington's military reaction will in practice help to extend and intensify the anti-U.S. atmosphere in the region and throughout the world, thereby confronting the Reagan administration with a range of extremely complicated problems.

Furthermore, the emergence of those problems would immediately help to spread and intensify contradictions within the United States, and Reagan would be confronted with even more complicated problems than the defeated McFarlane trip to Tehran.

At any rate, quite apart from all these issues, the Islamic Republic of Iran, while expressing its support for the need to establish comprehensive tranquillity in the Persian Gulf, again declares categorically that if the Iraqi regime continues its acts of sedition in the Persian Gulf, the Islamic Republic will take no country's flag into consideration.

If Reagan administration officials optimistically imagine that increasing the number of warships or military aircraft in the Gulf can change the clear determination of the Islamic Republic, it will, as admitted by a majority in Congress, plunge itself into more complicated problems than those experienced following its intervention in Lebanon. We are prepared to demonstrate to the Reagan administration once again that getting into conflict with a revolutionary ummah will result in nothing but regret and shame for the aggressors. The United States will receive an answer which will make Washington regret its presence in the Persian Gulf.

Besharati Rejects Request To Lift Embassy Seige

LD201734 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Text] The Belgian, Danish, and West German ambassadors, whose countries take turns as EEC chairman, today met with Deputy Foreign Minister Besharati. During this meeting, Besharati emphasized that the Islamic Republic of Iran is committed to implementing the Vienna Convention. He said: No law is enforceable on a unilateral basis. If any country violates the smallest part, then according to Article 47 of the Vienna Convention the right to reciprocate is justified.

Explaining the illegal actions of the French Government, he affirmed: We will not submit to pressure and blackmail under any circumstances and we will exchange blow for blow with any country which violates our rights. He added: The French Government has imposed a blockade on the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran and has prevented the movement of our diplomats. It has also severely injured one of our diplomats who is in the hospital and in grave condition. In our view, these problems -- all started by France -- should be investigated so that the

reasons for the French Government's trampling on the Vienna Convention can be clarified. In our view, one should fight against those reasons.

During this meeting the Danish ambassador, whose country currently holds the chairmanship of the EEC, requested the lifting of the seige of the French Embassy in Tehran and freedom of movement for French diplomats and the holding of meetings with them. In reply, Besharati said: Any time that we see a move by the French Government regarding implementation of the regulations of the Vienna Convention and the lifting of the restrictions imposed on the embassy and the diplomats of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Paris, we will reciprocate positively.

He added: We expect the EEC ambassadors to condemn France's illegal actions. If they visit Aminzadeh in the hospital they can see for themselves what has been done to an Iranian diplomat by those those who claim to adhere to human rights and to the Vienna Convention.

Pakistan Agrees To Represent Tehran in Paris

BK201200 Hong Kong AFP in English 1118 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Text] Ismalabad, July 20 (AFP) — Pakistan on Monday said it had agreed to an Iranian request to look after Tehran's interests in France as a senior Pakistani diplomat held talks with Iranian leaders in Tehran.

Foreign Office officials here said Pakistan would also coordinate the "safe conduct" of Iranian diplomats from Paris with the French authorities after Paris and Tehran severed diplomatic links Friday. But informed sources here ruled out the possibility of any immediate Pakistani "mediation" between France and Tehran, whose bitter diplomatic row has led to a police blockade of both countries' embassies.

Pakistani Foreign Secretary Abdus Sattar was received by the Iranian deputy foreign minister for political affairs and held talks with the Iranian Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi late Sunday, officials at the Foreign Office said. The sources said Mr Abdus Sattar's trip was in response to an Iranian invitation for consultations on the situation in the Gulf and the problems of the region. The question of taking care of Iranian interests in France was raised during the Abdus Sattar-Musavi talks, they said.

Officials at the Pakistani Foreign Office Monday confirmed: "We have received a formal Iranian request to look after their interests in Paris" and added, "we have acceded to it." Earlier reports here said the Iranian request was limited to an arrangement on "safe conduct" for the Iranian diplomats besieged in their embassy in Paris within three days.

Mr Abdus Sattar, whose series of consultations with Iranian officials also included talks with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, was to return home Tuesday.

France has asked Italy to represent its interests in Tehran.

Denmark Seeks To Mediate

AU201328 Paris AFP in English 1320 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Text] Brussels, July 20 (AFP) — Denmark is mediating between France and Iran, currently embroiled in a diplomatic crisis, on behalf of the European Economic Community whose presidency Denmark currently holds, Danish diplomatic sources said here Monday.

The Danish ambassador to Tehran met Friday with Iranian Foreign Ministry officials to seek to "normalize the situation" between France and Iran, a Danish spokesman said.

Iran gave its response to the Danish questions early Monday, he added, giving no other details. EEC foreign ministers were to be informed of the response at midday Monday, and briefed about France's standing in the crisis by French minister for European affairs Bernard Bosson.

French diplomatic sources said France was primarily concerned about getting its 15 embassy occupants — diplomats, related staff and their families — out of Tehran.

France and Iran severed relations with one another on Friday following a three-week row sparked by French efforts to question an interpreter at the Iranian Embassy in Paris in connection with a wave of terrorist bombings in the French capital. The interpreter, Wahid Gorji, turned down the examining magistrate's summons and took refuge in the Iranian Embassy as a beefed-up security force kept a round-a-clock watch outside the premises.

Meanwhile in Tehran, French consul Paul Torri refused a summons to go to a prison for questioning on charges of alleged spying.

Lebanese Hizballah Statement on Tehran-Paris Rift

LD181906 Tehran IRNA in English 1859 GMT 18 Jul 87

[Text] Beirut, July 18, IRNA — Lebanon's Hizballah in a statement released here Saturday described the French Government as the first "European hostage" handed over to Iraq by the U.S., following severance of Tehran-Paris relations.

France's fueling of political tension with the Islamic Republic which led to breaking of France-Iran relations indicates that U.S. plans to support Saddam Husayn's aggression on Iran were proceeding at the expense of Europe's interests in the region and the globe, said the statement adding "France will be first victims of its own action, and is considered among the real accomplices in the Iraqi war on the Islamic Republic," it added.

The statement said Zionist influence on the French Government greatly contributed to the crisis, noting that the French nation should look into the real reasons why its government chose to follow the U.S. thereby putting its interests at risk with the Muslims.

Describing the recent events as part of a Zionist and global arrogance plan to bring the Islamic movement under control, the statement said the Islamic Republic is not alone in countering

the plan. All Muslims of the world are standing beside the Iranian Muslim nation to confront any plot, stressed the statement.

Besharati Visits Hospitalized Diplomat

LD191914 Tehran IRNA in English 1743 GMT 19 Jul 87

[Text] Tehran, July 19, IRNA — Acting Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati accompanied by a group of Foreign Ministry officials Sunday visited Mohsen Aminzadeh, second secretary of Iranian Embassy in Paris, who is hospitalized in a Tehran hospital.

Aminzadeh, an Iranian diplomat on his way to Paris from Geneva, was assaulted and badly beaten by French policemen and his papers stolen minutes after he checked out of the customs section of Geneva airport. The Iranian Embassy official who was severely injured arrived here on a stretcher Thursday morning and was immediately hospitalized.

London Embassy Issues Statement on Car Bombing

LD202305 Tehran IRNA in English 2020 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Text] London, July 20, IRNA — The Iranian Embassy condemned Saturday's bomb explosion in London, calling it a terrorist act which was aimed at setting the stage for another Western plot against the Iranian people.

"Any terrorist act is condemned by the Islamic Republic of Iran on humanitarian grounds, for the simple reason that the Islamic Republic itself has been a victim of blind terrorism since its inception in 1979," the embassy said in a statement Monday. It pointed the finger at groups based outside Iran opposing the Islamic Republic, saying the bombing may have been part of inter-group fightings.

A former minister in the Shah's regime who fled Iran after the revolution and took refuge in Britain was badly injured when a bomb planted on his car exploded in London's Kensington High Street.

In a concerted effort the British media have tried to smear the Islamic Government by suggesting that the Islamic Government was behind the bombing.

Majlis Speaker Derides U.S. 'Enslaved Nations' Week

LD211003 Tehran IRNA in English 0945 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Text] Tehran, July 21, IRNA — Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said here Monday that the way was being paved for a U.S. President's lie to announce a "week for the enslaved nations" with the hypocrisy of pretending support for the oppressed people.

Addressing a group of visitors including Commerce Minister Hasan Abedi-Ja'fari, the speaker said that one of the enslaved nations were the people of South Africa where about three million white migrants were ruling over the 25 million indigenous black majority.

Another enslaved nation, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said, were homeless Palestinians who would free themselves if the U.S. had abandoned backing the Zionist regime. Therefore, he stressed, it is the U.S. which fastens the shackles around the neck of nations then hypocritically claims that it cares for the enslaved people.

In the pre-revolution era Iran was enslaved by the U.S., Britain and the toppled Pahlavi regime, but the nation freed itself and this made the U.S. angry.

Elsewhere in his speech, Rafsanjani said that no government committed tyranny against its nation more than the Iraqi Ba'thists did. How could the U.S. support the Iraqi regime while it was imposing intolerable pressures on its people, the speaker argued.

Of course, he added, since they (the Americans) opposed Marxism they were pitying the people entrapped in Marxist systems. "We accept this but you have enslaved a group of people and they have enslaved a group of others as well.... in the same way the two superpowers have shared in creating an insecure condition in the Persian Gulf and have involved our country in the war."

Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed that they (the superpowers) were considering Islam and freedom of Iran obstrusive to their vested interests, therefore would pressure Iran more. "We should try hard and if we could free this nation and this region, despite all these plots and pressures, then the barriers would be broken. They (the superpowers) are not yet prepared to confess that Iran, in the Islamic world and in the Middle East, has shattered the myth of bullying and taken control over the situation despite these powers," Hashemi-Rafsanjani said.

He concluded by saying that what had happened in Iran was an epoch-making event which changed the world. The world had a very important and a new way ahead and in future it would judge what a great event had taken place in Iran. During the past eight years, Hashemi-Rafsanjani noted, Iranians had proved their power of resistance.

Khomeyni Receives Families of Martyrs, Disabled

LD211327 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Text] A number of families of revolution martyrs, self-sacrificing combatants, and disabled and missing from Mashhad and Tehran met with Imam Khomeyni at his residence this morning.

In a speech during the meeting, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moselmin Tavasoli [religious affairs official on the Secretariat of the Imam] referred to today's march by the pilgrims in Medina and its role in unifying the Muslims.

He said: The great prophet of Islam was constantly aware of the plots hatched by the enemies of Islam to create divisions among the Muhajirin and the Ansar [two early tribes following the

prophet Mohammad]. In the first year of his arrival in Medina, his excellency the prophet unified them.

He said: The pilgrims march in Medina will unify world Muslims and is a continuation of that same step taken by the prophet. Referring to the self-sacrifices of our heroic people, he asserted: To attain the aims of its revolution, the Muslim nation of Iran is determined to preserve its unity at any cost.

He then conveyed the imam's greetings and thanks to the audience. Finally, the imam responded to the cheers of the audience.

Further Reportage on Visit of Congolese Minister

Meets Mines, Metals Minister

LD180140 Tehran IRNA in English 1520 GMT 16 Jul 87

[Text] Tehran, July 16, IRNA — Visiting Congolese Minister of Energy and Mines Rodolphe Adada held talks with Iranian Mines and Metals Minister Mohammad-Reza Ayatollahi here Thursday on Iran-Congo industrial and economic cooperation.

During the meeting, Ayatollahi underscored the need to pursue the agreements envisaged in an Iran-Congo letter of understanding, signed earlier this year. The two also discussed expansion of bilateral cooperation in exchange of information, wood industries and despatch of Iranian industrial, mineral, health and oil experts to Congo.

Also present at the meeting were representatives from the Iranian Oil Ministry and the Atomic Energy Organization. The Congolese minister heading a delegation arrived here last night.

Meets With Velayati

LD181702 Tehran IRNA in English 1548 GMT 18 Jul 87

[Text] Tehran, July 18, IRNA — Visiting Congolese Minister of Energy and Mines Rodolphe Adada conferred with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, here Saturday. At the meeting, the two sides expressed satisfaction with establishment and progress in Brazzaville-Tehran political relations which officially started recently.

It was decided at the meeting that an Iranian economic-technical delegation would travel to the Congo to explore areas in which the two can have bilateral cooperation. Meanwhile, Velayati agreed to return the visit of the Congolese minister at a convenient date in future. Adada arrived here Wednesday night at the head of a delegation to review mutual cooperation with Iranian officials.

Concludes Visit, Departs

NC200524 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Text] Mr Adada, the Congolese mines and energy minister, who has been visiting our country at the head of a delegation, left Tehran last night. He was seen off by Mr Ayatollahi, our minister of mines and metals.

At the airport, Mr Ayatollahi spoke to a Central News Unit correspondent on the outcome of this delegation's visit and the agreements reached. He said: The Congolese Republic is one of the most active African countries and also holds the presidency of the OAU. Furthermore, it is a dynamic member of the Nonaligned Movement and the UN Security Council. Therefore, Mr Adada's visit to our country is of immense and special significance and comes in the wake of the Congolese foreign minister's visit.

Mr Ayatollahi added: The memorandum of understanding signed during the Congolese foreign minister's visit to Tehran was reassessed. It was decided that a delegation of experts from Iran would visit the Congo so that there may be the necessary coordination in the field of prospecting, extraction, and utilization of oil and gas resources.

Combat Operations Against Iraq Continue

Communique No 2,903

LD202016 Tehran IRNA in English 1946 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Text] Tehran, July 20 — IRNA — Five hundred Iraqi soldiers were killed and 10 enemy tanks destroyed in Sumar, western fronts, when Muslim forces of Iran smashed an Iraqi counterassault to retake height 402 at 05:30 GMT Sunday. Two Iraqi commando battalions of Special Brigade 68 were destroyed 70 percent in the aborted counterattack backed by helicopter gunships and heavy artillery fire.

Announcing the above here today, the 2903rd Joint Staff communique said that the Iranian combatants also thwarted another counterattack launched by an Iraqi infantry brigade on the southern outskirts of Kuh-e Neyriz heights in Sumar Sunday morning, killing or wounding several enemy soldiers and forcing the others to flee. The commander of the attacking enemy brigade, Colonel Tariq, was badly wounded and transferred out of the battlefield.

A number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and several enemy gun emplacements and one munitions dump destroyed in artillery duels with Iranian combatants in parts of the fronts yesterday.

Iraqi vehicle columns moving on Naft-e Shah-Salman-Koshteh axis suffered substantial losses Sunday when hit by Iranian artillery fire.

Iranian gendarmerie forces responded to Iraqi artillery fire in parts of the southern fronts yesterday killing or wounding a number of enemy soldiers and setting afire 10 gun emplacements, one vehicle and one munitions dump of theirs.

The artillery fire of Iranian Muslim forces heavily damaged an Iraqi armoured column in Sumar and east of Al-Basra, the communique concluded.

70 Iraqis Captured Near Sumar

LD210156 Tehran IRNA in English 1944 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Text] Bakhtaran, July 20, IRNA — Seventy Iraqi POWs, captured in Sumar in western fronts over the past few days, were transported through this western city and Eslamabad-e Gharb Sunday afternoon. In another development, 16 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded in the western fronts in artillery duels with Iranian Muslim combatants Sunday and Monday.

Two Iraqi tanks, one multiple rocket launcher, four mortar launchers and 15 individual and group bunkers were destroyed throughout the battlefields yesterday. Meanwhile, the number of Iraqi soldiers killed or wounded in Sumar since Friday amounted to 850.

Iraqis 'Forced To Flee'

LD202251 Tehran IRNA in English 1956 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., July 20, IRNA — Five hundred Iraqi commandoes of Division 21 of the Sixth Corps were killed and 10 boats and scores of weapons of theirs destroyed or seized intact in the western Majnun Islands in clashes with Iranian forces Sunday night and this morning.

Following Iranian liberation of additional parts of the Majnun Islands on Sunday night, Iraqi forces by regrouping some units of the Sixth Corps attempted to launch a counterattack but were suppressed and forced to flee. The Iranian combatants have now fortified their new positions in the war theater and their heavy artillery fire is checking movement of enemy armoured and mechanized columns.

Foreign Media Urged To Inspect Captured Iraqi Town

LD202252 Tehran IRNA in English 1957 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Text] Tehran, July 20, IRNA — An Iranian military commander called on representatives of the foreign media in Iraq today to inspect Iran's victories in the Iraqi town of Atrush achieved during the "Fath-8" operations Sunday. Referring to the Iraqi regime's claims refuting the Iranian operations, the commander invited the foreign mediamen to inspect destroyed installations, Ba'th Party headquarters and the so-called popular army bases in the town.

Stressing on the significant Iranian victories in the operations, 150 kms inside Iraq, he said the people of the town are the best witnesses who can confirm the losses suffered by the Iraqi regime.

President Believes Kashmir Solution Still Possible

BK201614 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq says that a peaceful solution to the Kashmir dispute is still possible. Addressing a mammoth gathering at (Bagh) in Azad Kashmir this afternoon, he asserted that all possible means for a peaceful settlement of this dispute have not yet been exhausted. These means must be translated into action in order to resolve the 40-year old dispute.

The president said that the government's policy is not to put the Kashmir issue in cold storage nor to adopt an apologetic attitude. Pakistan has consistently and unequivocally supported all efforts undertaken in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations to restore the right of self-determination to the people of Azad Kashmir.

General Mohammad Ziaul Haq affirmed that he is confident that the Kashmir issue will be resolved during his lifetime. On this occasion, he stressed the importance of the mass media in Kashmir and the need for broadcasting Pakistan's stand on Kashmir to the entire world. He said that it is only through the mass media that the world is being kept informed of the situation in Afghanistan, thereby understanding the needs of the Afghan people. He added that the younger generation and the world as a whole must be informed about the approval given by the people of Jammu and Kashmir to a resolution 40 years ago for the accession of Kashmir to Pakistan.

He pointed out that measures are being taken to make the Azad Kashmir Radio broadcasts more powerful to ensure that its voice can be heard in all parts of Jammu and Kashmir outside the line of control [which divides Kashmir into two parts: one in Pakistan and the other in India]. He said that the people of Azad Kashmir have offered great sacrifices for the independence of their (?frontiers). He noted that the people of Pakistan and Kashmir are bound together by close geographical, economic, cultural, and religious ties, and that the people of Azad Kashmir reaffirm their resolve for accession to Pakistan. The similar resolve of the people across the line of control cannot be suppressed for long. He confirmed that Pakistan will continue to provide assistance on a priority basis for development projects in Azad Kashmir. He announced a grant of 50 lakh rupees for Azad Kashmir.

The meeting was also addressed by Azad Kashmir President Sardar Abdul Qayum Khan, Prime Minister Sardar Sikander Hyat Khan, and Sardar Mohammad Ayub, the speaker of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly.

Lauds Spirit of Independence

BK210628 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0600 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said that he has been deeply impressed with the determination of the Azad Kashmir youths to achieve the right of self-determination for themselves and for their brothers across the line of control line in Jammu and Kashmir. He made this statement in an address at a function in Dhirkot, about 70 miles from Muzefferabad, last night. The president asserted that he was glad to see that the people of Jammu and Kashmir have kept the spirit of struggle for independence alive. He added that wars are not won merely with armies, but by the people's firm determination and invention.

On this occasion, the president was presented with the gun used to fire the first shot to begin the war of independence for Jammu and Kashmir. The president announced that the gun will be placed in a prominent place at the Presidency with an inscription underneath noting that the first shot in the war for Kashmir's independence was fired from this gun.

In presenting the gun earlier, Azad Kashmir President Sardar Abdul Qayum Khan reminded the president that Kashmir's war of independence was waged with very limited resources for 15 months and resulted in a large part of Kashmir being liberated. He added that the same spirit is still alive today.

President Ziaul Haq Greets New Indian President

BK171525 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 17 Jul 87

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has extended sincere congratulations and best wishes to R. Venkataraman on his election as president of India. In his message, the president expressed confidence that during Venkataraman's term as president, the process of normalizing relations and promoting good-neighborly ties between the two countries will continue.

The president said: On behalf of the people and Government of Pakistan, I assure you of continued cooperation toward the achievement of this great objective which will benefit the people of both countries and promote peace and stability in the region.

Press Notes Issued on Recent Karachi Violence

19 July Incidents

BK200235 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Text] A press note issued by the district magistrate of Karachi-East last night says that groups of armed miscreants erected many roadblocks to disrupt traffic in the Shah Faisal colony and attempted to set fire to property. They attacked a police patrol party and fired indiscriminately at a police party and police reinforcements who had arrived to bring the situation under control. The police were forced to use tear gas and to fire in self-defense in order to protect the life and property of the citizens. Ten persons were injured, including two police constables; two of the injured later died. The press note adds that the situation is now under control and an inquiry is underway.

20 July Incidents

BK210226 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Text] A press note issued by the district magistrate of Karachi-East reports that groups of miscreants indulged in antisocial

activities in the areas of Malir, Malir Extension, and Lani police station yesterday morning. They attacked a movie theater and a post office and set five vehicles on fire, four of which were government owned. The police took action to stop the miscreants from damaging public property. A driver and three police constables were injured.

The press note adds that the antisocial elements placed obstacles in roads, burned tires, and threw stones at passing vehicles, damaging some of them and disrupting traffic. The police used tear gas to disperse the agitation groups. Many people were arrested and charges have been filed against them. The situation is now under control.

Charges of Killing 200 Civilians in Jaffna Denied

BK171145 Colombo International Service in English
1045 GMT 17 Jul 87

[Text] A Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam — LTTE — canard appearing in the Indian press yesterday states that 200 Tamil civilians were killed and 500 injured at Vadamarachchi, Jaffna. This is totally false and emanates from a reactivated LTTE disinformation center in Madras.

Official sources told *Lanka Puwath* that the true position was that since the violation of the self-declared cease-fire when they [LTTE] attacked the Security Forces' camp at the Nelliadi girls school on 5 July and subsequent attacks, the Security Forces had been forced to launch an operation to clear the Vadamarachchi area of terrorists. The total number killed since 5 July to date is 32 terrorists and 27 soldiers. No civilians have been killed. Some may have been injured in the cross-fire.

Official sources pointed out that the LTTE was in the habit of counting the deaths of its own members as civilian deaths as part of its disinfcrmation. They stressed that there have been no damages to temples or schools except the blasting of the Nelliadi girls school and the Udupiddi girls school by the terrorists in an attempt to thwart government plans to conduct the GCE [General Certificate of Education] advanced-level examinations at Vadamarachchi.

The Security Forces have found as much as 70-80 rounds land mines, each weighing 20-40 kg, during the clearing operation in the last 3 days.

Another blatant distortion in the LTTE disinformation campaign is that there are 339,000 refugees in the north and east of Sri Lanka. The fact is that there is a total of 105,900 displaced [persons], 37,000 of whom lived in camps and 68,000 outside.

Delhi Confirms Jayewardene-Dixit Meeting 16 Jul

BK171248 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 17 Jul 87

[Text] The Sri Lankan president, Mr Jayewardene, and the Indian high commissioner in Colombo, Mr J.N. Dixit, held talks last night on the ethnic issue. Officials in Colombo said 10 senior ministers were also present during the talks.

Later, Mr Dixit told UNI that he was invited to the meeting to seek some clarifications on the basic demands of the Tamils and the cooperation India could extend for finalizing a package of proposals to resolve the issue.

Mr Dixit is said to have given a clear idea of India's perceptions on the ethnic issue to Sri Lankan leaders.

He also made it clear that India has not put forward any proposal and said our basic approach this time has been to impress upon Colombo the need to return to political option and formulate proposals responsive to the concern of the Tamils in the island.

Indian Envoy Departs 'Unexpectedly' for New Delhi

BK181606 Hong Kong AFP in English
1500 GMT 18 Jul 87

[Text] Colombo, July 18 (AFP) — The Indian envoy here left unexpectedly for New Delhi Saturday after talks with the Sri Lankan Government that have revived hopes of a fresh round of peace talks to end the country's Tamil separatist conflict, informed sources said.

Indian High Commissioner Jyotindra Nath Dixit had several meetings this week with President Junius Jayewardene and senior ministers to discuss a new formula that envisages forming a single linguistic unit of the Northern and Eastern Provinces that some Tamils claim as their homeland, said the sources, who asked not to be named. Earlier this month, New Delhi asked Colombo to present new ideas on granting autonomy to [words indistinct] informed sources said.

The idea of a single linguistic unit was first suggested by unofficial Indian intermediaries and later picked up by Colombo. It would be administered initially by a provincial council, the sources added.

Before any elections to the council, the armed separatist groups would have to hand in their weapons and the government in turn would confine its armed forces in the region to barracks, the sources said.

Within one year of the election of the provincial council, which would have wide powers, a referendum would be called to determine whether the Eastern Province population wished to continue their association with the predominantly Tamil north or preferred their own council, the sources said. The multi-racial Eastern Province at the last census six years ago had a Sinhala and Moslem majority over the Tamils. The referendum would be held to ensure that the east is not dominated by the north against its wishes, the sources said.

Both the Sri Lankan and Indian sides are keeping a tight lid on the discussions that began this week. Informed sources said India has indicated it would try to persuade the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the dominant separatist group, to begin political negotiations if Sri Lanka came up with new ideas. But political analaysts were sceptical whether India retained sufficient clout over the LTTE to enable it to bring the group to the negotiation table.

President Says India To Help Solve Ethnic Issue

BK191105 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English
0938 GMT 19 Jul 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, July 19 (*Lanka Puwath*) — Sri Lankan President J.R. Jayewardene addressing a mass gathering at the 20th anniversary celebrations of the Jathika Sevaka Sangama (Naional Workers Union) at Sri Jayewardenepura, Kotte, yesterday said that although the Indian Government had earlier assisted the terrorists it had now expressed willingness to solve

this problem within the unitary framework of Sri Lanka. The president said that the Sri Lankan Government will find a solution to the present ethnic crisis, safeguarding the unity of the country and conforming to the Constitution.

He also said that the government will grant the state of autonomy to the northern and eastern regions under a unitary system and whatever the decision taken for the devolution of power it would be reached conforming to the unitary status.

He explained in detail the efforts made by him and the government from 1983 to solve this crisis. Noting that Sri Lankan Tamils had been facing certain problems, the president explained the proposals made by the United National Party, in 1977 to solve them. Terrorists activities even prevailed during Mrs Bandaranaike's regime. Although measures were taken to combat these activities the situation gradually worsened. A vast amount of money had to be spent today to protect the country.

"If not for this", the president said, "the living standards of the people could have been further improved by increasing salaries of public servants, and also allocating more money on food stamps". Certain sections of the opposition do not wish to solve the present crisis, but they oppose whatever proposals are made. They support the present doctors' strike. Strikes encourage the terrorists. The strike is not on trade union issues. They cannot frighten the government, and the government will not leave room for any such event.

The objective of certain sections of the opposition, Mr Jayewardene said, was to topple the government. He added the Jathika Sevaka Sangamaya has taken a prominent position in the trade union movement.

AFP: Indians Fighting Alongside Tamil Separatists
BK191551 Hong Kong AFP in English
1541 GMT 19 Jul 87

[Text] Colombo, July 19 (AFP) — Indian nationals are fighting alongside Tamil separatists in northern Sri Lanka, a Sinhala newspaper said Sunday, citing an unnamed senior army officer. Sri Lankan officials were not immediately available to comment on the report.

The mass-circulation Sinhala weekly, *Sunday Divaina*, quoted a senior army officer as saying that about 200 Indian nationals, trained by the Indian Army, were fighting alongside Tamil separatists against government troops in the northern Jaffna Peninsula.

The newspaper also quoted intelligence sources as saying that Tamils trained in India were being given safe escort to the Jaffna Peninsula by Indian naval craft.

India has acknowledged in the past that Tamil separatists have camps in Tamil Nadu State, in the south of the country, but has denied that they have been given training on Indian soil.

A section of Sri Lanka's minority Tamil community is fighting for a separate state in the north and east, complaining of discrimination by the Sinhala majority.

The Weekend newspaper said Sunday that the dominant separatist group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), was willing to negotiate with the government if its basic demand for a homeland was accepted.

The paper quoted LTTE Political Committee member Y. Yogi as saying that if the government agreed to a Tamil homeland in the north and east, talks could commence "under the good offices of India." Mr. Yogi was quoted as saying that the idea of a provincial council, as reportedly discussed by Indian and Sri Lankan officials last week, could be the basis for dialogue.

Meanwhile, the large Moslem minority in eastern Sri Lanka that would fall under such a council's jurisdiction is "deeply concerned," a senior member of the community said Sunday.

"We prefer to be a minority living with a tested majority, rather than be a minority working under another troubled minority," he said.